



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

NEW TO THE BIBLE

Your First 30 Days in God's Word

Beginner Guide | Editable Master V1

Short answer

Begin with a willing heart, a dependable Bible, and a simple rhythm: Pause, Read or Listen, Understand, and Respond. These 30 guided readings introduce Jesus, the gospel, daily life with God, Christian community, and the hope of new creation.

This guide helps new and returning readers build a sustainable Bible-reading habit without pressure to understand everything immediately. The goal is not merely to finish a plan, but to know God, recognize Jesus throughout Scripture, understand the gospel, and respond faithfully.



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WELCOME

Opening the Bible for the first time can feel exciting, confusing, or overwhelming. You may wonder where to begin, how much to read, what to do when you do not understand, or what happens if you miss a day.

You do not need advanced knowledge, hours of free time, or immediate answers to every question. Begin with a willing heart, an open Bible, and a desire to know God.

MEMORY ANCHOR

The goal is not merely to complete a reading plan. The goal is to know God, recognize Jesus throughout Scripture, understand the gospel, and live in response to His truth.



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WHAT THE BIBLE IS

The Bible is the written Word of God, given through human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is one unified collection containing many books, authors, historical settings, and kinds of literature.

- History.
- Law.
- Poetry.
- Wisdom.
- Prophecy.
- Gospels.
- Letters.
- Apocalyptic writing.

Together these writings tell one unfolding story: God created everything good; humanity rebelled; sin brought guilt, corruption, suffering, and death; God began His plan of redemption; Jesus came as the promised Savior and King; He died for sins and rose; God gives forgiveness and new life to those who trust Him; and Jesus will return to judge evil, raise the dead, and make all things new.

Jesus is not merely one character among many. He is the promised Savior toward whom the biblical story moves and the One in whom God's saving promises find fulfillment.

KEY PASSAGES:

Luke 24:25-27, 44-47; John 5:39-40; John 20:30-31; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-3.



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WHAT YOU NEED

- A dependable Bible translation.
- This 30-day guide.
- A notebook and pen, if available.
- A quiet place, when possible.
- A willing heart.

A study Bible, Bible dictionary, Bible app, website, or audio Bible can help, but none is required. Listening is a valid way to receive Scripture and can help people who learn by hearing, have limited vision or reading difficulties, are learning English, or want to hear the flow of a complete passage.

You may listen while following the written text, or listen first and return to examine the passage. If listening while driving, walking, or working, choose another time to pause and reflect when possible.

KEY PASSAGES:

Deuteronomy 31:9-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Luke 4:16-21; 1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3.



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CHOOSING A BIBLE TRANSLATION

The Bible was written mainly in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Some English translations follow original wording and structure more closely; others express meaning in more natural modern English.

Dependable options include the Berean Standard Bible, Christian Standard Bible, English Standard Version, New English Translation, New International Version, New King James Version, and New Living Translation.

QUICK CHOICE

If you feel stuck, choose the NLT for maximum readability, the CSB or NIV for a balance of readability and close translation, or the ESV for a more word-for-word style. The best starting translation is one you can understand and will consistently read or listen to.



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A SIMPLE DAILY RHYTHM

PAUSE

Slow down and turn your attention toward God. Ask Him to help you understand, believe, and obey.

READ OR LISTEN

Engage the assigned passage slowly, preferably twice. First follow the whole passage; then notice repeated words, important statements, questions, commands, promises, warnings, and details about God.

UNDERSTAND

Ask what is happening, who is speaking and addressed, what the passage reveals about God and people, what the author's main point is, and how it connects to Jesus or the gospel.

RESPOND

Ask whether there is truth to believe, sin to confess, a promise to trust, a command to obey, an example to follow or reject, or something that should shape worship and prayer.

A SIMPLE OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help me understand what I read or hear, recognize what is true, see Jesus clearly, and respond with faith and obedience. Amen.



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A SIMPLE NOTE-TAKING METHOD

PASSAGE

What did I read or hear?

TRUTH

What is the passage teaching?

RESPONSE

How should I respond?

PRAYER

What do I want to say to God?

Your notes do not need to be long. One honest sentence under each heading is enough.



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IMPORTANT ENCOURAGEMENT

This plan is a guide, not a test. God does not love you more on days when you read a chapter or less on days when you struggle. Bible reading does not purchase salvation or earn acceptance. Salvation is received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

If you miss a day, do not quit. Continue, return to the missed reading, or adjust the schedule. The purpose is steady growth, not anxious perfection.

When you encounter a difficult or strange passage, write down the question, keep reading, check the surrounding context, and talk with a trustworthy pastor, mature Christian friend, or teacher. Questions are not failures; they are invitations to keep learning.



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MEETING JESUS

PART ONE

The Christian life begins and continues with Jesus Christ.



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DAY 1: JESUS, THE ETERNAL WORD

READ:

John 1:1-18

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus did not begin to exist when He was born in Bethlehem. He is the eternal Word who was with God and is God. Everything was created through Him. The Word became flesh: the eternal Son became truly human without ceasing to be God. Jesus reveals the Father and brings grace and truth.

NOTICE:

- What does the passage say about the Word?
- What did the Word do?
- What happened when the Word entered the world?
- What do those who receive Jesus become?

RESPOND:

Thank Jesus for coming into the world and making God known.

PRAYER:

Jesus, help me see who You truly are. Thank You for coming near and revealing the Father.



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DAY 2: JESUS CALLS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW HIM

READ:

Mark 1:14-20

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus announces that God's kingdom has drawn near. He calls people to repent, believe the gospel, and follow Him. Repentance means turning from sin toward God. Believing the gospel means trusting the good news God has accomplished through Jesus. Following Jesus means trusting Him, learning from Him, and submitting to His leadership.

NOTICE:

- What message did Jesus proclaim?
- What responses did He call for?
- What did the first disciples leave behind?
- What did Jesus promise to make them?

RESPOND:

Consider what it means for Jesus to have rightful authority over your life.

PRAYER:

Jesus, teach me to trust You, turn from sin, and follow where You lead.



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DAY 3: JESUS FORGIVES SINNERS

READ:

Mark 2:1-17

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus has authority to forgive sins. The healing of the paralyzed man demonstrates authority far greater than the crowd first understood. Jesus welcomes sinners and calls them to repentance. He does not approve of sin, but He does not reject people because they need mercy.

NOTICE:

- What did the friends do for the paralyzed man?
- What did Jesus address before healing his body?
- Why were some religious teachers offended?
- Who did Jesus say He came to call?

RESPOND:

Bring your sin and need honestly to Jesus. Do not hide from the One who came to save sinners.

PRAYER:

Jesus, I need Your forgiveness and mercy. Help me come honestly and trust Your authority to save.



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DAY 4: JESUS WELCOMES THE LOST

READ:

Luke 15:1-24

MAIN TRUTH:

God seeks and welcomes the lost. The shepherd searches for the lost sheep, the woman for the lost coin, and the father receives his returning son with compassion. The son's rebellion is serious, but the father's welcome displays generous mercy toward those who repent.

NOTICE:

- Who was listening to Jesus?
- Why were the religious leaders complaining?
- What causes rejoicing in the stories?
- How did the father respond when his son returned?

RESPOND:

If you have wandered from God, turn toward Him. Ask whether you share His concern for people who are lost.

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for Your mercy toward those who return. Give me a humble and repentant heart.



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DAY 5: JESUS OFFERS NEW BIRTH

READ:

John 3:1-21

MAIN TRUTH:

Religious knowledge and outward behavior cannot produce the new life people need. Jesus says a person must be born again, or born from above. This new birth is the work of God's Spirit. God loved the world by giving His Son so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

NOTICE:

- What did Nicodemus misunderstand?
- Who produces the new birth?
- Why did God give His Son?
- What does the passage say about light and darkness?

RESPOND:

Do not rely on religious effort to make yourself new. Trust Jesus and the life God gives through His Spirit.

PRAYER:

God, I cannot make myself spiritually alive. Help me trust Jesus and receive the life only You give.



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DAY 6: JESUS OFFERS LIVING WATER

READ:

John 4:1-30

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman despite social, religious, and moral barriers. He knows her life fully, yet invites her to receive living water. Jesus exposes sin truthfully while treating her with dignity and directing her toward genuine worship.

NOTICE:

- What barriers existed between Jesus and the woman?
- What did Jesus know about her?
- How did He describe true worship?
- What did the woman do afterward?

RESPOND:

Jesus knows your history. Come honestly rather than allowing shame to keep you away.

PRAYER:

Jesus, You know me completely. Satisfy my deepest needs and teach me to worship in spirit and truth.



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DAY 7: JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER CREATION

READ:

Mark 4:35-41

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus has authority over the natural world. The storm revealed how little the disciples yet understood about Him. Jesus' presence did not prevent the storm, but the storm could not overcome His authority.

NOTICE:

- What frightened the disciples?
- What did they assume about Jesus' concern?
- How did Jesus stop the storm?
- What question did they ask afterward?

RESPOND:

Bring your fears to Jesus. Faith faces danger while trusting the One whose authority is greater.

PRAYER:

Jesus, when I am afraid, remind me who You are. Help me trust Your power, wisdom, and care.



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DAY 8: JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

READ:

John 10:1-18

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows, leads, protects, and gives His life for His sheep. Unlike a hired worker who runs from danger, Jesus willingly lays down His life according to the Father's saving purpose.

NOTICE:

- How do the sheep respond to the shepherd's voice?
- How is Jesus different from thieves and hired workers?
- What does the Good Shepherd do?
- What does Jesus say about His authority over His life?

RESPOND:

Learn to recognize Jesus' voice through Scripture and follow Him rather than competing voices.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for being the Good Shepherd. Help me know Your voice, trust Your care, and follow.



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DAY 9: JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

READ:

John 11:17-44

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus enters Martha and Mary's grief with compassion. He weeps and demonstrates His authority over death. When Jesus says He is the resurrection and the life, He points beyond one miracle: eternal life and resurrection are found in Him.

NOTICE:

- What did Martha believe about resurrection?
- What did Jesus reveal about Himself?
- How did Jesus respond to the mourners?
- What happened when He called Lazarus?

RESPOND:

Bring grief and fear of death to Jesus. Christian hope does not deny sorrow; it rests in Him.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for meeting people in grief. Help me trust that resurrection and life are in You.



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DAY 10: JESUS TEACHES US TO ABIDE IN HIM

READ:

John 15:1-17

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus is the true vine, and His followers are branches. Spiritual fruit comes from remaining in a living relationship with Him. Abiding includes receiving His words, depending on Him, obeying His commands, and continuing in His love.

NOTICE:

- What happens to a branch separated from the vine?
- How does God care for fruitful branches?
- How are love and obedience connected?
- How should disciples treat one another?

RESPOND:

Ask where you are relying on your own strength instead of depending upon Jesus.

PRAYER:

Jesus, keep me close to You. Let Your words remain in me and produce love, obedience, and fruit.



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UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

PART TWO

The gospel is the good news of what God has done through Jesus Christ.



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DAY 11: JESUS GIVES HIMSELF FOR US

READ:

Luke 22:14-20

MAIN TRUTH:

At the final meal before His crucifixion, Jesus explains His approaching death. The bread points to His body given for His people; the cup to His blood poured out and the new covenant. Through Jesus' sacrifice, God provides forgiveness and restored relationship.

NOTICE:

- What did Jesus say about the bread?
- What did He say about the cup?
- What does 'given' reveal?
- How does the meal connect His death with covenant promises?

RESPOND:

Remember that salvation rests on what Jesus accomplished, not what you can earn.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself for sinners and establishing the new covenant.



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DAY 12: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

READ:

John 19:16-37

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus truly suffered and died. The cross reveals the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's saving love. Jesus was innocent, yet gave Himself as the sacrificial Savior. 'It is finished' announces the completion of His suffering and saving mission on the cross.

NOTICE:

- How was Jesus treated?
- What details show His death was real?
- Which events fulfilled Scripture?
- What did Jesus declare before He died?

RESPOND:

Receive the cross as the saving work Jesus accomplished for sinners.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for enduring the cross. Show me the seriousness of sin and greatness of Your love.



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DAY 13: JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

READ:

John 20:1-31

MAIN TRUTH:

Jesus rose bodily from the dead. The empty tomb and appearances are not symbols for optimism. Thomas moved from doubt to worship. John wrote so readers may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name.

NOTICE:

- What did the disciples discover?
- How did Jesus respond to Mary?
- What evidence did Thomas request?
- Why did John write?

RESPOND:

Consider John's evidence and response: faith, worship, hope, and allegiance to Jesus.

PRAYER:

Risen Jesus, help me believe the testimony You have given. You are my Lord and my God.



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DAY 14: THE WHOLE STORY POINTS TO JESUS

READ:

Luke 24:13-35

MAIN TRUTH:

The Emmaus disciples knew facts but did not understand how Scripture pointed to Jesus. Jesus explained His suffering and glory from Moses and the Prophets. The Old Testament's promises, patterns, offices, sacrifices, and hopes prepare for and find fulfillment in Christ.

NOTICE:

- Why were the disciples discouraged?
- What had they failed to understand?
- How did Jesus use Scripture?
- How did they describe His teaching?

RESPOND:

Read each passage in context while recognizing its place in the larger story fulfilled in Jesus.

PRAYER:

Jesus, open my understanding. Help me follow the biblical story and recognize how it leads to You.



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DAY 15: THE GOSPEL IN SUMMARY

READ:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

MAIN TRUTH:

The gospel is rooted in real events: Christ died for our sins according to Scripture, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared to witnesses. Paul received salvation by grace, and grace transformed his life.

NOTICE:

- Which events are of first importance?
- How does Paul emphasize resurrection?
- How does Paul describe himself?
- What did grace produce?

RESPOND:

State the gospel in your own words, centered on what Jesus has done.

PRAYER:

God, thank You that the gospel is true. Help me trust Jesus and live in response to grace.



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DAY 16: RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH

READ:

Romans 3:21-28

MAIN TRUTH:

All people have sinned and fall short of God's glory. No one establishes righteous standing by personal achievement. God justifies sinners by grace through redemption in Jesus. Faith trusts and receives what God provides through Christ.

NOTICE:

- Who has sinned?
- How is justification given?
- Where is redemption found?
- Why is boasting excluded?

RESPOND:

Stop comparing your moral performance with others. Trust the sufficiency of Jesus.

PRAYER:

God, I have sinned and cannot justify myself. Thank You for righteousness through Jesus.



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DAY 17: SAVED BY GRACE FOR GOOD WORKS

READ:

Ephesians 2:1-10

MAIN TRUTH:

Apart from Christ, people are spiritually dead in sin. 'But God' announces the gracious intervention of the One rich in mercy. Salvation is God's gift, received through faith and not produced by works. Good works are a result, not the cause, of salvation.

NOTICE:

- How is life apart from Christ described?
- What motivated God?
- How is salvation received?
- What place do good works have?

RESPOND:

Rest your hope in God's mercy and ask Him to produce grateful obedience.

PRAYER:

God, thank You for mercy and grace. Make my life reflect the good work You began.



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DAY 18: PEACE AND RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

READ:

Romans 5:1-11

MAIN TRUTH:

Those justified through faith have peace with God through Jesus. This peace is restored relationship, not merely calm feelings. Jesus died for powerless sinners and enemies, demonstrating God's love and providing reconciliation.

NOTICE:

- What do believers have through Jesus?
- How can suffering produce hope?
- When did Christ die for sinners?
- What does reconciliation reveal?

RESPOND:

Thank God that hope rests in His love through Christ, not your worthiness.

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for making peace through Jesus. Help me rejoice in grace and remain hopeful.



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DAY 19: NO CONDEMNATION IN CHRIST

READ:

Romans 8:1-17

MAIN TRUTH:

There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. God accomplished through His Son what the Law could not through sinful human weakness. The Spirit gives life, leads God's children, and assures believers of adoption.

NOTICE:

- Who is free from condemnation?
- What did God do through His Son?
- How do flesh and Spirit differ?
- What relationship do believers receive?

RESPOND:

Do not keep trying to pay for sins Christ has forgiven. Walk in dependence on the Spirit.

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for receiving Your people as children. Holy Spirit, lead me into life.



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DAY 20: NEW CREATION AND RECONCILIATION

READ:

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

MAIN TRUTH:

Christ's love changes how believers understand themselves and others. Anyone in Christ is a new creation. This does not remove every struggle immediately; it begins a genuine new work, identity, and direction. God reconciles people through Christ and entrusts His people with that message.

NOTICE:

- What compelled Paul?
- For whom should believers live?
- What is a new creation?
- What message is entrusted to believers?

RESPOND:

Ask how belonging to Jesus should shape your priorities, relationships, and purpose.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for making Your people new. Teach me to live for You and share reconciliation.



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LEARNING TO WALK WITH GOD

PART THREE

Prayer, repentance, trust, renewed thinking, Spirit-produced character, and obedience grow from the gospel.



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DAY 21: JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

READ:

Matthew 6:5-13

MAIN TRUTH:

Prayer is communication with God shaped by trust, reverence, and dependence. Jesus warns against performance and treating repeated words as control. His model directs us toward God's honor, kingdom and will; daily dependence; forgiveness; and protection.

NOTICE:

- Which wrong approaches does Jesus correct?
- What comes first?
- Which needs are brought to God?
- How does forgiveness affect relationships?

RESPOND:

Use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern and speak naturally with God about each part.

PRAYER:

Father, may Your name be honored, Your kingdom come, and Your will be done. Provide, forgive, and lead me.



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DAY 22: TRUSTING THE GOOD SHEPHERD

READ:

Psalm 23

MAIN TRUTH:

God is the Shepherd who provides, guides, restores, protects, and remains with His people. The psalm does not promise a life without danger; the path includes the dark valley. Confidence rests in the Shepherd's presence and care. Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd.

NOTICE:

- What does the Shepherd provide?
- Where does He lead?
- What gives comfort in the valley?
- How does the psalm end?

RESPOND:

Name one situation in which you need to trust God's guidance or presence.

PRAYER:

Lord, You are my Shepherd. Guide me and help me trust Your presence when the way is difficult.



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DAY 23: CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

READ:

Psalms 51:1-17

MAIN TRUTH:

David appeals to God's mercy. He does not minimize guilt, blame someone else, or substitute outward religion for repentance. Confession honestly agrees with God about sin; repentance turns from sin toward Him. David asks for forgiveness and a clean heart.

NOTICE:

- What does David ask God to do?
- How does he describe sin?
- What inner change does he desire?
- What sacrifice does God receive?

RESPOND:

Confess known sin honestly and trust God's mercy rather than hiding or excusing it.

PRAYER:

God, have mercy on me. Create a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me.



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DAY 24: ANXIETY, PRAYER, AND RENEWED THINKING

READ:

Philippians 4:4-9

MAIN TRUTH:

Paul directs believers to bring concerns to God through prayer, petition, and thanksgiving. God's peace guards hearts and minds in Christ. This does not shame people for anxiety or promise immediate change; it directs anxious hearts toward God's care and truth.

NOTICE:

- What should believers do with concerns?
- What accompanies prayer?
- What does peace guard?
- What should shape our thinking?

RESPOND:

Bring one concern specifically to God, then identify one true thing about Him.

PRAYER:

God, You know what troubles me. Help me bring it to You and let truth shape my thoughts.



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DAY 25: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

READ:

Galatians 5:13-26

MAIN TRUTH:

Christian freedom is not permission for selfish desire; believers are freed to love and serve. The works of the flesh show sinful rebellion. The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control through dependent life with Him.

NOTICE:

- How can freedom be misused?
- How is love expressed?
- How do flesh and fruit contrast?
- What is keeping in step with the Spirit?

RESPOND:

Choose one area needing the Spirit's transforming work and take one faithful step.

PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, produce Your fruit in me. Teach me to reject sinful desires and walk in love.



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LIVING AS PART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PART FOUR

Following Jesus is personal, but it is not meant to remain isolated.



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DAY 26: THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

READ:

Acts 2:37-47

MAIN TRUTH:

Those who received the gospel repented, were baptized, and became part of a worshiping community devoted to apostolic teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, generous care, worship, and shared life. The church is not merely a building or event; it is Christ's people.

NOTICE:

- How did listeners respond?
- What practices shaped the community?
- How did believers care for one another?
- What did God continue to do?

RESPOND:

Pray for a faithful local church where Scripture is taught, the gospel proclaimed, and Christ honored.

PRAYER:

God, thank You for making believers Your people. Lead me into faithful community and service.



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DAY 27: MANY MEMBERS, ONE BODY

READ:

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

MAIN TRUTH:

The church is a body with many different members. Unity does not require identical roles or abilities. Every member belongs and should care for the others. The kingdom is God's reign; the church is the people who belong to the King and bear witness to that reign.

NOTICE:

- What makes many members one body?
- Why can one member not reject another?
- Which members deserve special care?
- How should members share suffering and honor?

RESPOND:

Consider how God may use your abilities and experiences for the good of others.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for joining Your people into one body. Help me value and serve others.



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DAY 28: HEARING AND DOING GOD'S WORD

READ:

James 1:19-27

MAIN TRUTH:

Faithful Bible reading involves more than hearing information. James compares a hearer who does not act to someone who looks into a mirror and immediately forgets. God's Word should shape speech, conduct, compassion, and holiness. Obedience does not earn salvation; it shows that truth is received seriously.

NOTICE:

- How should believers approach speaking, listening, and anger?
- How should the Word be received?
- What danger comes from hearing without doing?
- How does James describe genuine religion?

RESPOND:

Choose one clear truth and identify a specific way to practice it.

PRAYER:

God, protect me from hearing without responding. Give me humility to receive and courage to obey.



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DAY 29: RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE

READ:

Hebrews 12:1-3

MAIN TRUTH:

The Christian life is a long-distance race requiring endurance. Believers lay aside sin and other hindrances. Endurance grows as we fix our attention on Jesus, who endured the cross and is seated in victory. Christians do not run alone or without hope.

NOTICE:

- What should be laid aside?
- How should the race be run?
- Where should believers look?
- What did Jesus endure?

RESPOND:

Identify one sin or unnecessary weight. Seek God's help and appropriate support from a mature believer.

PRAYER:

Jesus, help me lay aside what hinders me. Keep my attention fixed on You and give me endurance.



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DAY 30: GOD MAKES ALL THINGS NEW

READ:

Revelation 21:1-7

MAIN TRUTH:

The biblical story ends not with evil, death, or separation but with God dwelling with His redeemed people in renewed creation. Death, mourning, crying, and pain will not continue forever. Christian hope is resurrection life with God in the new heaven and new earth.

NOTICE:

- What does John see?
- Where will God dwell?
- What will pass away?
- What does God make new?
- What is promised to the one who overcomes?

RESPOND:

Let future hope shape present faithfulness. Pain and evil are real, but they will not have the final word.

PRAYER:

God, thank You for the promise to dwell with Your people and make all things new. Help me live faithfully.



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YOU COMPLETED THE FIRST 30 DAYS

Pause and thank God for every truth you encountered. You may have understood some passages clearly and found others difficult. You may have finished on schedule or needed extra time. You may have read, listened, or combined both.

The most important result is not a perfect record. It is that you received God's Word and began learning to know Him through what He has revealed.

- What did I learn about God?
- What did I learn about Jesus?
- What became clearer about the gospel?
- Which passage encouraged or challenged me most?
- Which questions remain?
- What habit helped me?
- What made engaging with Scripture difficult?
- What faithful step should I take next?



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DAY 31 AND BEYOND

A guided plan can create helpful momentum, but your relationship with God's Word does not end when the schedule does. The next step is to move from selected readings into one complete biblical book.

WHERE TO READ NEXT

MARK

A short, fast-paced Gospel presenting Jesus' ministry, authority, suffering, death, and resurrection.

PSALMS

Songs and prayers that teach us to speak honestly with God in worship, grief, confession, thanksgiving, and hope.

EPHESIANS

A letter explaining salvation by grace, identity in Christ, the unity of the church, and daily Christian living.

GENESIS

The beginning of the biblical story: creation, rebellion, judgment, covenant promises, and the family through whom God's redemptive plan unfolds.

FROM SELECTED READINGS TO A WHOLE-BOOK STUDY

Use the same rhythm you practiced during the first 30 days. Read one natural section or chapter at a time and continue where you stopped the next day.

1. PAUSE - Ask God for understanding, humility, faith, and obedience.
2. READ OR LISTEN - Follow the passage carefully and notice what stands out.
3. UNDERSTAND - Summarize the author's main point within the paragraph, book, and biblical story.
4. RESPOND - Believe the truth, confess sin, trust God's promise, obey His command, and pray.

DAY 31 MEMORY ANCHOR

Do not wait for another perfect plan. Choose one book, begin with its first passage, and keep returning to God's Word.



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QUICK FAQ AND COMMON PITFALLS

WHICH TRANSLATION SHOULD I CHOOSE?

If you feel stuck, use the NLT for maximum readability, the CSB or NIV for a balance of readability and close translation, or the ESV for a more word-for-word style. Choose a dependable translation you understand and will use consistently.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH TOUGH OR STRANGE PASSAGES?

Write down the question, read the surrounding paragraphs, keep going, and seek help from a trustworthy pastor, mature Christian friend, study Bible, or commentary. Do not build a major conclusion on one confusing verse.

WHAT IF I DO NOT FEEL DIFFERENT?

Feelings matter, but they are not the final measure of growth. God often works gradually as truth shapes thinking, desires, choices, and habits.

WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH SOMETHING?

Ask why it troubles you, check context and translations, and seek faithful help. Approach Scripture humbly while making sure you understand what it actually teaches.

WHAT IF PASSAGES SEEM TO CONTRADICT?

Ask whether they address the same subject, audience, situation, definition, or kind of writing. Many apparent contradictions become clearer through patient study.

WHAT IF I KEEP GETTING DISTRACTED?

Choose a realistic time, begin with a short passage, silence notifications, or use an audio Bible while walking or following the written text.

WHAT IF SCRIPTURE EXPOSES MY SIN?

Do not hide from God. Confess your sin and return to the gospel. God's Word exposes sin and reveals the Savior.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

CHOOSING A FAITHFUL LOCAL CHURCH

No local church is perfect, but a healthy church should center on God's Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Teaches the Bible in context.
- Centers Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Proclaims salvation by grace.
- Honors the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Practices prayer and sincere worship.
- Expects character and accountability from leaders.
- Welcomes honest questions.
- Encourages members to read Scripture.
- Cares for people without using shame for control.
- Practices baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Participates in Christ's mission.



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WHAT TO READ NEXT

MARK

A fast-moving account of Jesus' ministry, authority, suffering, death, and resurrection.

JOHN

A Gospel emphasizing Jesus' identity and eternal life in Him.

ACTS

The risen Jesus continuing His work through the Spirit and early church.

EPHESIANS

Salvation by grace, identity in Christ, church unity, and faithful living.

PHILIPPIANS

Joy, humility, perseverance, gospel partnership, and Christ-centered life.

JAMES

How genuine faith shapes speech, conduct, endurance, relationships, and care.

GENESIS

Creation, rebellion, judgment, covenant promises, and the family of promise.

EXODUS

Genesis' direct continuation: rescue from slavery, God's covenant name, Passover, Law, covenant, priesthood, and God's presence in the tabernacle.

PSALMS

Prayers and songs of worship, trust, grief, confession, thanksgiving, and hope.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

A SIMPLE PLAN FOR READING A WHOLE BOOK

5. Learn the basic setting: author, first readers, situation, and genre.
6. Read or listen to a natural section. Chapter numbers help us locate passages but were added later.
7. Summarize the section in one sentence.
8. Notice how it connects with what comes before and after.
9. Pray and identify one faithful response.
10. Review your summaries weekly and notice the book's larger message.

MEMORY ANCHOR

Pause. Read or listen. Understand. Respond. Continue.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

INTERMEDIATE GUIDE

The next stage is learning to observe more carefully, interpret within context, connect passages with the whole biblical story, and apply them faithfully. Deeper study should produce greater knowledge of God, clearer gospel understanding, stronger trust in Jesus, careful handling of Scripture, humble obedience, and love.

INTERMEDIATE MEMORY ANCHOR

Read the passage in its literary, historical, and biblical context before deciding what it means for you.



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OBSERVATION, INTERPRETATION, AND APPLICATION

OBSERVATION

What does the passage say?

- People, places, and actions.
- Commands, promises, and warnings.
- Questions, comparisons, and contrasts.
- Repeated words and connecting words.
- Changes in speaker, location, or subject.

INTERPRETATION

What did the author communicate?

- Who wrote and first received it?.
- What was happening?.
- What kind of writing is it?.
- What comes before and after?.
- How does it contribute to the book and whole Bible?.

APPLICATION

How should this truth shape faith and life?

- Believe truth and worship God.
- Confess sin and reject error.
- Trust a promise and obey a command.
- Change a habit or repair a relationship.
- Serve, endure, or share the gospel.

A passage has an intended meaning, but its truth may have many faithful applications.



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READING ACCORDING TO GENRE

NARRATIVE

Tells what happened. A description is not automatically a command to imitate.

LAW

Reveals God's character, covenant expectations, human sin, and need for redemption. Ask to whom it was given and how Christ and the new covenant shape application.

POETRY

Uses imagery, parallel lines, emotion, and compressed language. Read images as images.

WISDOM

Teaches skillful life under God. Proverbs usually express general patterns, not unconditional promises.

PROPHECY

Includes warning, covenant accusation, correction, encouragement, promise, and future hope.

GOSPELS

Present Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection from complementary perspectives.

LETTERS

Address real churches and people. Follow the author's argument and circumstances.

APOCALYPTIC WRITING

Uses vivid symbols to reveal spiritual realities, judgment, conflict, and final hope. Do not treat every image as a secret current-events code.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

WORDS WITH A WIDE SEMANTIC RANGE

A semantic range is the variety of meanings a word can carry in different contexts. 'World' may refer to creation, humanity, or a system of rebellion. 'Save' or 'salvation' may refer to rescue from physical danger, enemies, healing, rescue from sin and judgment, present saving work, or salvation's final completion.

Exodus 14, Matthew 1:21, Romans 5:9-10, Ephesians 2:8, Philippians 2:12-13, and 1 Peter 1:5 illustrate different aspects of rescue. These uses do not contradict one another. Context determines the intended aspect.

MEMORY ANCHOR

Do not pour every possible definition into one verse.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

CHURCH AND KINGDOM

CHURCH

The people called by God who belong to Jesus and gather in His name. Church can refer to a local congregation, believers meeting in a home, churches in a region, or the whole people of God united to Christ. It does not primarily mean a building.

KINGDOM OF GOD

God's sovereign reign breaking into the world through Jesus and awaiting complete fulfillment at His return. The kingdom is already present because the King has come, yet not complete because evil, suffering, sin, and death remain.

HOW THEY RELATE

The church is the people of the King; the kingdom is God's reign. The church proclaims the gospel, lives under Jesus' authority, displays kingdom values, participates in God's mission, and waits for the kingdom's fullness. It does not create, control, or contain the whole kingdom.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

THE BIBLE'S UNIFIED STORY

CREATION

God created the world good and humanity in His image.

KEY PASSAGES:

Genesis 1-2; Psalm 8; Colossians 1:15-17.

REBELLION

Humanity rejected God's rule, bringing guilt, corruption, alienation, suffering, and death.

KEY PASSAGES:

Genesis 3; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 3:9-23.

PROMISE

God promised evil would not have the final word and promised blessing through Abraham's offspring.

KEY PASSAGES:

Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; 22:15-18.

COVENANT PEOPLE

God rescued Israel, established covenant, gave His Law, dwelt among them, and called them to represent Him.

KEY PASSAGES:

Exodus 3; 12-20; 25:1-9; 40:34-38; Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

KINGDOM AND TEMPLE

God established David's kingship and promised an enduring King.

KEY PASSAGES:

2 Samuel 7:8-16; 1 Kings 8; Psalms 72; 110.

PROPHETIC HOPE

Despite covenant rebellion and judgment, God promised restoration, a new covenant, King, Spirit, forgiveness, resurrection, and new creation.

KEY PASSAGES:

Isaiah 9:1-7; 52:13-53:12; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-28; Daniel 7:13-14.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus fulfills Israel's story and God's promises, announces the kingdom, bears sin, defeats death, and reigns.

KEY PASSAGES:

Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:16-21; John 1:1-18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

THE CHURCH'S MISSION

The risen Jesus gives the Spirit and sends His people to make disciples among all nations.

KEY PASSAGES:

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8; Acts 2; 1 Peter 2:9-12.

NEW CREATION

Jesus will return, raise the dead, judge evil, and dwell with His redeemed people in renewed creation.

KEY PASSAGES:

1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 50-58; Revelation 21-22.



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USING STUDY TOOLS RESPONSIBLY

- Translation footnotes.
- Cross-references.
- Bible dictionaries and maps.
- Concordances and commentaries.
- Original-language tools.
- Qualified pastors and teachers.
- Audio Bible recordings.

Use tools after engaging the passage yourself. Commentaries help explain history, language, and options but do not replace Scripture. Strong's numbers locate words but do not provide full knowledge of grammar, context, or language.

Be cautious with claims that the Greek or Hebrew 'really' or 'secretly' means something, that English translations removed truth, or that one word always carries the same meaning.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

A DEEPER WEEKLY STUDY RHYTHM

11. Read or listen to the whole book or a large section.
12. Observe repeated words, contrasts, commands, promises, and connections.
13. Study the author, audience, historical setting, and genre.
14. Summarize each paragraph and follow the argument.
15. Compare relevant quotations, allusions, and cross-references.
16. Consult a trustworthy study Bible, dictionary, or commentary.
17. Summarize the main truth, gospel connection, and faithful response.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

REUSABLE INTERMEDIATE STUDY WORKSHEET

BOOK:

PASSAGE:

DATE:

Who wrote this book and who first received it?

What historical situation and genre are relevant?

What people, places, actions, repeated ideas, comparisons, commands, promises, or warnings appear?

What comes immediately before and after?

What is the author's main point?

How does this contribute to the book and the Bible's larger story?

Is there a direct or developing connection to Jesus and the gospel?

What truth should I believe, error reject, sin confess, promise trust, or action take?

How should this passage shape my prayer?

ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARY

In this passage, the author teaches _____. Because this is true, I will _____.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Thirty days is a beginning, not a finish line. Keep opening God's Word. Read or listen patiently. Ask honest questions. Learn within faithful Christian community. Receive correction humbly. Test teaching carefully. Trust the Holy Spirit to help you understand and obey.

When you fail, return to grace. When confused, keep seeking. When discouraged, look again to Jesus: the eternal Son, promised King, suffering Servant, crucified Savior, risen Lord, Good Shepherd, only Mediator, and returning King.

FINAL MEMORY ANCHOR

Open God's Word. Read or listen. Follow the context. Follow the story. Recognize Jesus. Respond with faith. Continue for a lifetime.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for making Yourself known through Your Word. Give me a growing hunger for Scripture and patience to read or listen carefully. Help me understand each passage in context, recognize the unfolding story of redemption, and see Jesus more clearly.

Guard me from pride, confusion, carelessness, and false teaching. By Your Holy Spirit, renew my mind, expose my sin, strengthen my faith, and teach me to obey. Lead me into faithful Christian community and use Your Word to make me more like Christ.

When I do not understand, help me continue learning. When I fail, lead me back to grace. When I suffer, remind me of Your presence and promises. Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, who died for sins, rose from the dead, reigns as Lord, and will return to make all things new. In Jesus' name, amen.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

A CALL TO SALVATION

The Bible's central message is the good news of Jesus Christ. God created us for relationship with Himself, but all people have sinned. Sin is rebellion against God expressed through thoughts, desires, words, actions, and failure to do what is right. We cannot rescue ourselves through good behavior, religion, church attendance, or Bible knowledge.

Jesus is the eternal Son of God who became truly human. He lived without sin, died for our sins, was buried, rose bodily, reigns as Lord, and will return. Salvation is God's gift, received by grace through faith and not earned by works.

READ:

Mark 1:14-15; John 3:16-18; Romans 3:21-28; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10.

IF YOU ARE READY TO TURN TO JESUS

Speak honestly to God. Admit your sin. Believe Jesus died for sins and rose. Ask forgiveness. Place your trust in Him and surrender to His loving authority. A prayer is not a magic formula. Jesus saves; prayer expresses genuine repentance and faith.

A SIMPLE PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and cannot save myself. I believe You died for sins and rose from the dead. Please forgive me, make me new, and teach me to follow You. I place my trust in You as my Savior and Lord. Amen.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

KEY PASSAGES FOR CONTINUED READING

- Genesis 1-3 - Creation, rebellion, judgment, and the first promise of victory.
- Genesis 12:1-3 - God's promises to Abraham and purpose to bless the nations.
- Exodus 3:1-15 - God reveals Himself to Moses.
- Exodus 12 - Passover and deliverance.
- Exodus 19-20 - Covenant and God's commands.
- Exodus 25:1-9; 40:34-38 - God dwells among His people.
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - The suffering Servant.
- Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The new covenant.
- Mark 1:14-15 - Jesus announces the gospel and kingdom.
- John 1:1-18; John 3:1-21; John 20 - Jesus, new birth, and resurrection.
- Romans 3:21-28; Romans 5:1-11; Romans 8 - Grace, peace, Spirit, and glory.
- 1 Corinthians 15 - The gospel and resurrection.
- Ephesians 1-2 - God's saving work in Christ.
- Hebrews 11-12 - Faith and endurance.
- Revelation 21-22 - New creation and God's presence.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

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3NAILS RESOURCE PROMISE

- Point people to God.
- Reveal the heart of the Father.
- Magnify Jesus.
- Be grounded in Scripture.
- Encourage readers to open their Bibles.
- Build confidence, not dependence.

Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus