



READING  
GOD'S  
WORD  
TOGETHER  
2023

Stranraer Baptist Church Dec 2022

## **This could change your life!**

If you want to learn more about God, become more like Jesus, and hear His Holy Spirit speak to you more often, the best thing you can do is read the Bible. This is a guide to help you do this on a daily basis in 2023.

When we read God's word, God the Father speaks to us, God the Son prays for us, and God the Holy Spirit works in us to help us understand what He has written. Sometimes we will experience this like a shot of adrenaline, filling us with sudden life; other times it will be more like taking a daily vitamin tablet, which does us good over the years without feeling so immediately dramatic.

However God chooses to speak this year, let's be listening to Him!

## Get set

We've created a plan for reading the Bible that takes you through the whole of the New Testament and Psalms in a year, and the Old Testament over three years. We hope this pace will be manageable for you but you could just focus on the New Testament.

We're using a slightly different order of books to what is usually published in our Bibles. For the Old Testament we've arranged things chronologically:

- This year (2023) starts with creation, humanity's fall into sin, God choosing a family to be His miraculous people of hope for the world, and that family becoming a kingdom.
- Year two will be about what happened to that kingdom: its successes under Kings David and Solomon followed by its sin, division and eventual exile from the land as punishment. We will also read the wisdom literature God's people produced, and the prophets who spoke during this time.
- In year three, the story of the kingdom is reiterated and we find out what happened during the exile and how God brought His people back into the promised land. Along with these narratives, there are prophetic books from this era too.

For the New Testament, the gospels are spread throughout the year, followed by letters arranged in thematic groups (this idea comes from *The Books of the Bible*, published by Hodder & Stoughton):

- Luke's writings and Paul's letters in (probably) chronological order.
- Matthew's gospel and letters to Jewish believers.
- Mark's gospel and letters to Roman believers.
- John's gospel and his other writings.

The best way to ensure that you read the Bible is to make it a habit, and good habits happen by making a plan. Think about when in the day you could stop everything else and spend ten minutes – or more – with God and His word, and try to keep this as an appointment. You might need help from people you live with to make this happen; you may have to come up with a different kind of rhythm, if work patterns or other non-negotiable life factors mean you can't select a fixed time.

We strongly encourage you to get a printed copy of the Bible so that you can read it without the distraction of using your phone! At SBC, we usually read from the English Standard Version or New International Version, both of which are available in a variety of editions including:

- Study Bibles which have resources to help you understand what you're reading.
- Journaling Bibles with space for you to write and draw alongside the text.
- Reader's Bibles which feel more like most other books you read, i.e. the text is in a single column and there are no verse and chapter numbers, or headings.

To help you if you miss a few days and lose track, or you're joining the plan midway through the year, we've highlighted the dates on which a new book starts so that you can use those as moments to join in or jump back in.

## Get started

When the time comes to read God's Word, turn away from all other distractions, put your phone on silent and out of sight.

Then, focus on God. Pray that He would open your eyes to see wonderful things in His word (Psalm 119:18), and give you ears to hear what He is saying (Matthew 11:15).

Now, read carefully – just the text to start with, rather than any study tools printed in your Bible. If you have time, read through for a second time, then look at the study tools.

Follow this with thinking and praying. Ask questions to help with this:

- What does this tell me about God: His nature, His character, what He has done and is doing?
- What does this mean for me: do I need to praise, repent, give thanks, tell others, pray, make a change in my life?

Writing or drawing may help you stay engaged in conversation with God. If a certain truth about Him, or a word or phrase or idea or person has grabbed your attention, stay on that. Explore what you're thinking, savour what God is saying or showing you, speak with Him about it. The point isn't to have understood and learnt everything possible but to have heard or seen something, and to have responded to God.

## Get help

Reading the Bible can be challenging. As well as our natural weaknesses, some things are too deep for us to truly comprehend (Psalm 139:6), some are difficult to understand (2 Peter 3:16), and many trouble us because our thoughts are not aligned with God's (Isaiah 55:8). Please don't give up: all of us experience this and it can be at these times that we learn most effectively.

Here are some things you can do when this happens:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.
- Speak to a Christian friend or church leader.
- Use the tools provided in a study Bible.
- Explore videos, articles and podcasts that may be available on-line. Consider trying 'throughtheword.org' , 'bibleproject.com' or 'youversion.com'.

The more you read the Bible, the more you will learn about God, and the more you will see His big story and learn the plotlines and themes in it. This will help you to understand what's happening in the daily passages you're reading. It can only happen over time, so keep persevering.

## Get connected

Reading Scripture by yourself is an excellent thing to do, but it's even better to encourage one another and learn from each other as we read through the same plan together.

Small group meetings and messaging groups can be great places to do this, and you could arrange something similar with other friends. You can use these contexts to ask for help, to get clarity on what you think God has said or shown you, and to help others as they listen to God too. We all need each other and a group reading God's word together can experience this powerfully.

These are the kind of questions that can start good discussions:

- What have you learned about God: His nature, His character, what He has done and is doing?
- What has the reading meant for you: have you needed to praise, repent, give thanks, tell others, pray, make a change in your life?
- Has an idea, person, event, phrase stuck with you? What do you think God might be saying to you through that?
- What have you found most wonderful?
- What have you found most difficult?
- Which resources have you found helpful for introducing a book or explaining parts you've found difficult to understand?
- Are there any practical things you can do keep developing the habit of reading?

## January

1	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Psalm 1*</b>	
2	Mon	Psalm 2	<b>Luke 1*</b>
3	Tue	Psalm 3	Luke 2
4	Wed	Psalm 4	Luke 3
5	Thu	Psalm 5	Luke 4
6	Fri	Psalm 6	Luke 5
7	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 7	
8	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 8	
9	Mon	<b>Genesis 1*</b>	Luke 6
10	Tue	Genesis 2	Luke 7
11	Wed	Genesis 3	Luke 8
12	Thu	Genesis 4	Luke 9
13	Fri	Genesis 5	Luke 10
14	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 9	
15	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 10	
16	Mon	Genesis 6	Luke 11
17	Tue	Genesis 7	Luke 12
18	Wed	Genesis 8	Luke 13
19	Thu	Genesis 9	Luke 14
20	Fri	Genesis 10	Luke 15
21	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 11	
22	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 12	
23	Mon	Genesis 11	Luke 16
24	Tue	Genesis 12	Luke 17
25	Wed	Genesis 13	Luke 18
26	Thu	Genesis 14	Luke 19
27	Fri	Genesis 15	Luke 20
28	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 13	
29	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 14	
30	Mon	Genesis 16	Luke 21
31	Tue	Genesis 17	Luke 22

## February

1	Wed	Genesis 18	Luke 23
2	Thu	Genesis 19	Luke 24
3	Fri	Genesis 20	<b>Acts 1*</b>
4	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 15	
5	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 16	
6	Mon	Genesis 21	Acts 2
7	Tue	Genesis 22	Acts 3
8	Wed	Genesis 23	Acts 4
9	Thu	Genesis 24	Acts 5
10	Fri	Genesis 25	Acts 6
11	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 17	
12	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 18	
13	Mon	Genesis 26	Acts 7
14	Tue	Genesis 27	Acts 8
15	Wed	Genesis 28	Acts 9
16	Thu	Genesis 29	Acts 10
17	Fri	Genesis 30	Acts 11
18	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 19	
19	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 20	
20	Mon	Genesis 31	Acts 12
21	Tue	Genesis 32	Acts 13
22	Wed	Genesis 33	Acts 14
23	Thu	Genesis 34	Acts 15
24	Fri	Genesis 35	Acts 16
25	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 21	
26	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 22	
27	Mon	Genesis 36	Acts 17
28	Tues	Genesis 37	Acts 18



## March

1	Wed	Genesis 38	Acts 19
2	Thu	Genesis 39	Acts 20
3	Fri	Genesis 40	Acts 21
4	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 23	
5	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 24	
6	Mon	Genesis 41	Acts 22
7	Tue	Genesis 42	Acts 23
8	Wed	Genesis 43	Acts 24
9	Thu	Genesis 44	Acts 25
10	Fri	Genesis 45	Acts 26
11	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 25	
12	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 26	
13	Mon	Genesis 46	Acts 27
14	Tue	Genesis 47	Acts 28
15	Wed	Genesis 48	<b>1 Thess 1*</b>
16	Thu	Genesis 49	1 Thess 2
17	Fri	Genesis 50	1 Thess 3
18	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 27	
19	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 28	
20	Mon	Psalm 29	1 Thess 4
21	Tue	Psalm 30	1 Thess 5
22	Wed	Psalm 31	<b>2 Thess 1*</b>
23	Thu	Psalm 32	2 Thess 2
24	Fri	Psalm 33	2 Thess 3
25	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 34	
26	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 35	
27	Mon	Psalm 36	<b>1 Cor 1*</b>
28	Tue	Psalm 37	1 Cor 2
29	Wed	Psalm 38	1 Cor 3
30	Thu	Psalm 39	1 Cor 4
31	Fri	Psalm 40	1 Cor 5

## April

1	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 41	
2	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 42	
3	Mon	<b>Exo 1*</b>	1 Cor 6
4	Tue	Exo 2	1 Cor 7
5	Wed	Exo 3	1 Cor 8
6	Thu	Exo 4	1 Cor 9
7	Fri	Exo 5	1 Cor 10
8	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 43	
9	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 44	
10	Mon	Exo 6	1 Cor 11
11	Tue	Exo 7	1 Cor 12
12	Wed	Exo 8	1 Cor 13
13	Thu	Exo 9	1 Cor 14
14	Fri	Exo 10	1 Cor 15
15	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 45	
16	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 46	
17	Mon	Exo 11	1 Cor 16
18	Tue	Exo 12	<b>2 Cor 1*</b>
19	Wed	Exo 13	2 Cor 2
20	Thu	Exo 14	2 Cor 3
21	Fri	Exod 15	2 Cor 4
22	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 47	
23	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 48	
24	Mon	Exo 16	2 Cor 5
25	Tue	Exo 17	2 Cor 6
26	Wed	Exo 18	2 Cor 7
27	Thu	Exo 19	2 Cor 8
28	Fri	Exo 20	2 Cor 9
29	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 49	
30	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 50	

## May

1	Mon	Exo 21-22	2 Cor 10
2	Tue	Exo 23-24	2 Cor 11
3	Wed	Exo 25-26	2 Cor 12
4	Thu	Exo 27-28	2 Cor 13
5	Fri	Exo 29-30	<b>Gal 1*</b>
6	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 51	
7	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 52	
8	Mon	Exo 31-32	Gal 2
9	Tue	Exo 33-34	Gal 3
10	Wed	Exo 35-36	Gal 4
11	Thu	Exo 37-38	Gal 5
12	Fri	Exo 39-40	Gal 6
13	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 53	
14	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 54	
15	Mon	Psalm 55	<b>Romans 1*</b>
16	Tue	Psalm 56	Romans 2
17	Wed	Psalm 57	Romans 3
18	Thu	Psalm 58	Romans 4
19	Fri	Psalm 59	Romans 5
20	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 60	
21	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 61	
22	Mon	<b>Lev 1-2*</b>	Romans 6
23	Tue	Lev 3-4	Romans 7
24	Wed	Lev 5-6	Romans 8
25	Thu	Lev 7-8	Romans 9
26	Fri	Lev 9-10	Romans 10
27	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 62	
28	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 63	
29	Mon	Lev 11-12	Romans 11
30	Tue	Lev 13-14	Romans 12
31	Wed	Lev 15-16	Romans 13

## June

1	Thu	Lev 17-18	Romans 14
2	Fri	Lev 19-20	Romans 15
3	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 64	
4	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 65	
5	Mon	Levi 21-22	Romans 16
6	Tue	Lev 23-24	<b>Colossians 1*</b>
7	Wed	Lev 25-26	Colossians 2
8	Thu	Lev 27	Colossians 3
9	Fri	Psalm 66	Colossians 4
10	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 67	
11	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 68	
12	Mon	Psalm 69	<b>Ephesians 1*</b>
13	Tue	Psalm 70	Ephesians 2
14	Wed	Psalm 71	Ephesians 3
15	Thu	Psalm 72	Ephesians 4
16	Fri	Psalm 73	Ephesians 5
17	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 74	
18	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 75	
19	Mon	<b>Num 1-2*</b>	Ephesians 6
20	Tues	Num 3-4	<b>Philemon*</b>
21	Wed	Num 5-6	<b>Philippians 1*</b>
22	Thu	Num 7-8	Philippians 2
23	Fri	Num 9-10	Philippians 3
24	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 76	
25	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 77	
26	Mon	Num 11-12	Philippians 4
27	Tue	Num 13-14	<b>1 Tim 1*</b>
28	Wed	Num 15-16	1 Tim 2
29	Thu	Num 17-18	1 Tim 3
30	Fri	Num 19-20	1 Tim 4

## July

1	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 78	
2	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 79	
3	Mon	Num 21-22	1 Tim 5
4	Tue	Num 23-24	1 Tim 6
5	Wed	Num 25-26	<b>Titus 1*</b>
6	Thu	Num 27-28	Titus 2
7	Fri	Num 29-30	Titus 3
8	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 80	
9	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 81	
10	Mon	Num 31-32	<b>2 Tim 1*</b>
11	Tue	Num 33-34	2 Tim 2
12	Wed	Num 35-36	2 Tim 3
13	Thu	Psalm 82	2 Tim 4
14	Fri	Psalm 83	<b>Matthew 1*</b>
15	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 84	
16	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 85	
17	Mon	<b>Deut 1*</b>	Matthew 2
18	Tue	Deut 2	Matthew 3
19	Wed	Deut 3	Matthew 4
20	Thu	Deut 4	Matthew 5
21	Fri	Deut 5	Matthew 6
22	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 86	
23	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 87	
24	Mon	Deut 6	Matthew 7
25	Tue	Deut 7	Matthew 8
26	Wed	Deut 8	Matthew 9
27	Thu	Deut 9	Matthew 10
28	Fri	Deut 10	Matthew 11
29	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 88	
30	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 89	
31	Mon	Deut 11	Matthew 12

## August

1	Tue	Deut 12	Matthew 13
2	Wed	Deut 13	Matthew 14
3	Thu	Deut 14	Matthew 15
4	Fri	Deut 15	Matthew 16
5	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 90	
6	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 91	
7	Mon	Deut 16	Matthew 17
8	Tue	Deut 17	Matthew 18
9	Wed	Deut 18	Matthew 19
10	Thu	Deut 19	Matthew 20
11	Fri	Deut 20	Matthew 21
12	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 92	
13	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 93	
14	Mon	Deut 21	Matthew 22
15	Tue	Deut 22	Matthew 23
16	Wed	Deut 23	Matthew 24
17	Thu	Deut 24	Matthew 25
18	Fri	Deut 25	Matthew 26
19	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 94	
20	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 95	
21	Mon	Deut 26	Matthew 27
22	Tue	Deut 27	Matthew 28
23	Wed	Deut 28	<b>Hebrews 1*</b>
24	Thu	Deut 29	Hebrews 2
25	Fri	Deut 30	Hebrews 3
26	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 96	
27	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 97	
28	Mon	Deut 31	Hebrews 4
29	Tue	Deut 32	Hebrews 5
30	Wed	Deut 33	Hebrews 6
31	Thu	Deut 34	Hebrews 7

## September

1	Fri	Psalms 98	Heb 8
2	Sat	Psalms 99	
3	Sun	Psalms 100	
4	Mon	Psalms 101	Heb 9
5	Tue	Psalms 102	Heb 10
6	Wed	Psalms 103	Heb 11
7	Thu	Psalms 104	Heb 12
8	Fri	Psalms 105	Heb 13
9	Sat	Psalms 106	
10	Sun	Psalms 107	
11	Mon	Joshua 1*	James 1*
12	Tue	Joshua 2	James 2
13	Wed	Joshua 3	James 3
14	Thu	Joshua 4	James 4
15	Fri	Joshua 5	James 5
16	Sat	Psalms 108	
17	Sun	Psalms 109	
18	Mon	Joshua 6	Mark 1*
19	Tue	Joshua 7	Mark 2
20	Wed	Joshua 8	Mark 3
21	Thu	Joshua 9	Mark 4
22	Fri	Joshua 10	Mark 5
23	Sat	Psalms 110	
24	Sun	Psalms 111	
25	Mon	Joshua 11	Mark 6
26	Tue	Joshua 12-13	Mark 7
27	Wed	Joshua 14-15	Mark 8
28	Thu	Joshua 16-17	Mark 9
29	Fri	Joshua 18-19	Mark 10
30	Sat	Psalms 112	

## October

1	Sun	Psalms 113	
2	Mon	Joshua 20-21	Mark 11
3	Tue	Joshua 22-23	Mark 12
4	Wed	Joshua 24	Mark 13
5	Thu	Psalms 114	Mark 14
6	Fri	Psalms 115	Mark 15
7	Sat	Psalms 116	
8	Sun	Psalms 117	
9	Mon	Psalms 118	Mark 16
10	Tues	Ps 119:1-32	1 Peter 1*
11	Wed	Ps 119:33-72	1 Peter 2
12	Thu	Ps 119:73-104	1 Peter 3
13	Fri	Ps 119:105-144	1 Peter 4
14	Sat	Ps 119:145-176	
15	Sun	Psalms 120	
16	Mon	Judges 1*	1 Peter 5
17	Tue	Judges 2-3	2 Peter 1*
18	Wed	Judges 4-5	2 Peter 2
19	Thu	Judges 6-7	2 Peter 3
20	Fri	Judges 8-9	Jude*
21	Sat	Psalms 121	
22	Sun	Psalms 122	
23	Mon	Judges 10-11	John 1*
24	Tue	Judges 12-13	John 2
25	Wed	Judges 14-15	John 3
26	Thu	Judges 16-17	John 4
27	Fri	Judges 18-19	John 5
28	Sat	Psalms 123	
29	Sun	Psalms 124	
30	Mon	Judges 20-21	John 6
31	Tue	Ruth 1*	John 7

## November

1	Wed	Ruth 2	John 8
2	Thu	Ruth 3	John 9
3	Fri	Ruth 4	John 10
4	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 125	
5	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 126	
6	Mon	<b>1 Sam 1*</b>	John 11
7	Tue	1 Sam 2	John 12
8	Wed	1 Sam 3	John 13
9	Thu	1 Sam 4	John 14
10	Fri	1 Sam 5	John 15
11	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 127	
12	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 128	
13	Mon	1 Sam 6	John 16
14	Tue	1 Sam 7	John 17
15	Wed	1 Sam 8	John 18
16	Thu	1 Sam 9	John 19
17	Fri	1 Sam 10	John 20
18	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 129	
19	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 130	
20	Mon	1 Sam 11	John 21
21	Tue	1 Sam 12	<b>1 John 1*</b>
22	Wed	1 Sam 13	1 John 2
23	Thu	1 Sam 14	1 John 3
24	Fri	1 Sam 15	1 John 4
25	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 131	
26	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 132	
27	Mon	1 Sam 16	1 John 5
28	Tue	1 Sam 17	<b>2 John*</b>
29	Wed	1 Sam 18	<b>3 John*</b>
30	Thu	1 Sam 19	<b>Rev 1*</b>

## December

1	Fri	1 Sam 20	Rev 2
2	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 133	
3	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 134	
4	Mon	1 Sam 21	Rev 3
5	Tue	1 Sam 22	Rev 4
6	Wed	1 Sam 23	Rev 5
7	Thu	1 Sam 24	Rev 6
8	Fri	1 Sam 25	Rev 7
9	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 135	
10	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 136	
11	Mon	1 Sam 26	Rev 8
12	Tue	1 Sam 27	Rev 9
13	Wed	1 Sam 28	Rev 10
14	Thu	1 Sam 29	Rev 11
15	Fri	1 Sam 30	Rev 12
16	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 137	
17	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 138	
18	Mon	1 Sam 31	Rev 13
19	Tue	Psalm 139	Rev 14
20	Wed	Psalm 140	Rev 15
21	Thu	Psalm 141	Rev 16
22	Fri	Psalm 142	Rev 17
23	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 143	
24	<b>Sun</b>	Psalm 144	
25	Mon	Psalm 145	Rev 18
26	Tue	Psalm 146	Rev 19
27	Wed	Psalm 147	Rev 20
28	Thu	Psalm 148	Rev 21
29	Fri	Psalm 149	Rev 22
30	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 150	
31	<b>Sun</b>		

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

- This reading guide has been adapted with kind permission from one produced by Luke Davydaitis for King's Church, Edinburgh. EH3 9PL