

MY FIRST  
**52 DAYS**  
===== **IN CHRIST**

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# MY FIRST 52 DAYS IN CHRIST

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A LEARNING TOOL FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

THIS NOTEBOOK BELONGS TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHRISTIAN DISCIPLING PARTNER IS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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# INTRODUCTION

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## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

Becoming a Christian is the most important decision you will ever make and one that you will never regret. The angels in heaven, along with the Christians on earth, rejoice at your decision.

These next 52 days will be the most challenging ones of your life in Christ. God's gain is Satan's loss and Satan will be trying to drag you down anyway he can. Welcome to spiritual warfare. The best weapon you have against the devil is your Bible. You need to start reading it like it's going out of style. (It's not, by the way.) During the next two months you need to develop the daily habits of prayer and Bible study. These will keep you strong in your walk with your Heavenly Father.

Satan knows this as well and he despises all that you are going to learn from this study. He is going to work through your job, schoolwork, family, sports, media... anything and everything in his power to keep you from learning healthy spiritual habits. Determine in your heart right now that he is going to fail. Do not underestimate Satan and his forces of evil. He is not a fairytale. He is real. Demons are real and they will try to harm you spiritually, but do not be afraid. God will supply you with all you need to stand firm in your faith.

You and your Christian discipling partner will be learning from the New Testament for the next 52 days. Why 52 days? There are a couple of very good reasons why 52 days is appropriate. In the Old Testament book of Nehemiah the walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed and were lying in ruins. Nehemiah rallied the Israelites and in 52 days the walls were rebuilt. You are going to build a wall, a stronghold against Satan, your enemy, in the same amount of time.

There is another reason why this study lasts for 52 days. During this course you will read all of the New Testament at an average pace of five chapters a day. If you add up the chapters in the New Testament and divide them by five it comes to exactly 52. (Isn't that cool?) You

will read about five chapters a day, though your assignments will vary between three and ten chapters because they are not all the same length.

It takes 18½ hours to read the New Testament for the average reader. Since we are spreading this out over 7½ weeks your reading assignments will take about twenty-one minutes a day. The rest of the daily assignments will require varied amounts of time depending on how much you want to put into it. You should allow no less than thirty minutes a day for your Bible study and prayer time. An hour is closer to where you ought to be.

Now, Satan will try to convince you that you do not have time to study your Bible. Ignore him. This investment of time every morning will help you get more out of the rest of your day. Make God first in your life and you will see your quiet time with God as a catalyst, rather than an interruption, in your schedule.

Establish a consistent time each day for your study. Morning is the best time. Even if you are a night owl, morning may still be the best time for you. The problem with doing your Bible study at night is that nights are frequently busy with other activities. We tend to find our head against the pillow before it dawns on us we have not had our quiet time yet. If you plan for a morning time with God and get interrupted, you still have the rest of the day to work it in. Some are able to make nighttime Bible study work but let me encourage you to first try the mornings, at least for the next 52 days.

On the first page of this study guide, fill in your name and phone number in the blanks provided. Under that, fill in the name and phone number of your Christian discipling partner. If you do not have a Christian partner yet, get one. An older Christian needs to be working through this study with you. There are assignments that you do together.

Now it is time to begin your first day. Determine right from the start that you are going to put your heart into each lesson. Do not miss any days, and do not try to work ahead. You should do one assignment every day until all of them are finished. Make an appointment with God each day and keep it.

# Day 1

## MATTHEW 1-4

### REVIEW

The Lord has granted you a fresh start. This morning you are a brand-new person. Have you allowed that to sink in yet? Get your new life started right by having an awesome prayer and Bible study time today. While your baptism is still fresh on your mind you should write about your experience. In your notes write today's date in the top right-hand corner. You will start each day's assignment with the date to make sure you are not missing any days.

Now write down what your baptism meant to you. If you were baptized once before, explain why you felt like you needed to be baptized again. Use several scriptures to support your position and take your time. This will be valuable to you in years to come. If you have any doubts ten or twenty years from now, about whether you knew what you were doing, you can read this account and know for certain that you obeyed the gospel the way the Bible teaches.

### READ

Your first reading is Matthew 1-4. If you do not recognize all the names in the genealogy of Jesus don't worry about it. Later on, when you study through the Old Testament these names will take on more significance. For now, just read through them.

### REFLECT

Why did Jesus get baptized? He did not need to have His sins washed away. He said it was "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). What does that mean?

Write down your thoughts in your notes and discuss it with your discipling partner before the end of the day. That way he or she will know you have started your first assignment.



# Day 2

## MATTHEW 5-8

### REVIEW

The Lord has blessed you with another opportunity to learn from His Word. Never take for granted the privilege of reading the Bible. In medieval times people used to stand in line for hours for a chance to read the Bible for 15 minutes. Today you will be reading the most famous sermon in the world, The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus was an inspiring public speaker and His message will touch your heart.

### READ

Now listen carefully to Jesus as you read Matthew 5-8.

### REFLECT

Did you hear what Jesus was saying about prayer in chapter six? If you grew up with a denominational background, you might have been taught this “Lord’s Prayer” for public recital. That is not what Jesus intended it for. He did not want His example of prayer mindlessly recited over and over. Jesus was giving us an pattern for how to pray, rather than telling us the exact words we should pray. Prayer is simply talking to God. When you pray you should speak your own thoughts, not recite something God has already heard a million times. Think about it. Why would God want to listen to the same thing over and over? Prayer should be a fresh and spontaneous conversation with your Father in heaven.

In your notes write down anything else you believe Matthew 6 is teaching you about prayer. Now spend some time praying. Just talk to God. He wants to hear from you. You need to commune with Him. From this day forward you should pray every day, whether it is written in your assignment or not. Quiet time is all about talking and listening to God.



# Day 3

## MATTHEW 9-12

### REVIEW

Make sure your mind is clear and you are alert before you begin your study. What if you had an appointment today with someone you wanted to get a job with? What if you were meeting with the president today? If you were meeting with someone important or famous this morning, how would you prepare yourself?

### READ

You are about to have a meeting with the Creator of the universe this morning. Be sharp. Give God your undivided attention as you read Matthew 9-12.

### REFLECT

Jesus explains in Matthew 9:37 the dilemma the kingdom faces. “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” This has been a problem in Christianity from the beginning. There are so many who need to hear the gospel, but not enough true workers to bring in the harvest. We need more workers. We need you to join in the work of bringing in the harvest. Make it your goal today to invite someone to church or to a Bible study. It can be someone you know already or a complete stranger. Just invite someone.

In your notes write down how you plan to approach this assignment and what you are going to say.

Jesus offers an invitation in Matthew 11:28-30 to come to him for rest. If you are feeling weary or burdened right now, take Jesus up on His invitation. Give your problem to Jesus in prayer. Leave it at His feet and let Him give you rest. You are a child of God and you have a Savior who cares about your hurts and rejoices with your triumphs.



# Day 4

## MATTHEW 13-17

### REVIEW

Yesterday you invited someone to come to church with you. How did it go? Were you nervous? The more you share your faith the more natural it will be for you. Write down the name of the person(s) you invited in your notes and what their response was. God bless you for giving someone an opportunity to know Jesus and be right with God for eternity. As a follower of Christ, an imitator of Jesus, this is who you are now. Whether your friend comes to church or not, you have done what God expects of you. You have given someone an opportunity to know Jesus. Make this a daily habit, a lifestyle. Watch for ways you can talk to others about Christ.

### READ

Matthew 13-17 is this day's reading. There's lots of good stuff in these chapters. Watch closely as your Lord and Savior teaches you about real-life situations using parables. A parable is a simple relatable story that has a spiritual moral behind it.

### REFLECT

Did God have a message for you through this passage? Let me show you a great way to do Bible study. In your notes write, God said, "(your name), this week I want you to work on..." and continue to write out what God was trying to tell you in today's reading. Word it as if God were speaking directly to you and only you. You are not just reading some book. There is a message God is trying to get across to you. Listen to Him. This exercise will help make your quiet time for personal.

Now do the same thing with your prayer. Write your prayer down like this: I said, "Father, ... Amen." In other words, write out your response to what God said to you today through your Bible study. Let God know what you intend to do in response to the message He has placed on your heart. Pray the same as you did yesterday, only this time write it down.



# Day 5

## MATTHEW 18-22

### REVIEW

As you are reading through the gospel of Matthew, notice how Jesus conducts His ministry and how He treats people. He genuinely cares about each lost soul. You can tell that He loves them. Is this Christ-like attitude also in you?

### READ

As you read Matthew 18-22 today tell yourself, “I will become what I read.” Let Christ transform you into what He is. Search your heart for ways you need to become more like Christ.

### REFLECT

What would you do if you knew a fellow Christian was involved in sin? Would you tell someone else? Would you ignore the problem and hope it goes away? Jesus says you are to, “go and show him his fault, in private” (18:15). This is your Lord speaking. Listen to what He says. If you know a Christian who is in sin, you need to lovingly follow the steps of Matthew 18. Do not ignore the problem. It won’t go away.

The Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and Herodians were always trying to trap Jesus. They tried to trap Him with questions about paying taxes, but He explained, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (22:21). How about it? Are you giving to Caesar what is Caesar’s? Are you giving to God what is God’s? The government usually gets your taxes one way or another, but is God receiving His portion? From your income set aside an amount to give to God in the Sunday morning offering. Your offering should be a response to the love you feel for God. Put some thought into how much you should give. This is another important part of your walk with God. We will talk more about giving later on.



# Day 6

## MATTHEW 23-25

### REVIEW

Yesterday I quoted a couple of passages from the Bible to you. The wording might have been different from the way your Bible reads. The New Testament was originally written in Greek. We translate it to English so we can read and understand it. There have been many English translations over the years. Most are accurate translations. Some are not so good.

### READ

The scriptures quoted in this study will come from the New American Standard Version. Ask your discipling partner about translations and whether the one you are using is a good one. You want one that is accurate and easy for you to understand. Read Matthew 23-25 for today's text.

### REFLECT

The parables in chapters 24 and 25 emphasize the importance of being ready when Jesus comes for us. We need to be prepared at all times for His coming because we do not know when Judgment Day will be. Write down in your notes what you learned today about the Coming of Jesus.

What if Jesus decided today was the day to sound the trumpets and gather His children to come home? Wouldn't that be awesome? Because you made the decision to be baptized six days ago, you will be numbered with those going to heaven. That is so encouraging to think about. Do you know a Christian who needs some encouragement? How could you brighten their day? How about getting a card, giving them a call or sending your brother or sister in Christ an e-mail with an uplifting message? Few things strengthen an older Christian's faith as much as hearing from a young Christian.



# Day 7

## MATTHEW 26-28

### REVIEW

You have now been a Christian for one week and have spent a week in daily prayer and Bible study. You are forming a good habit and should be proud of your accomplishment.

### READ

Today also marks the completion of Matthew. Finish the last three chapters at this time: Matthew 26-28.

### REFLECT

The night Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, He instituted the memorial we know as the Lord's Supper. We still celebrate this observance every Sunday as the church has done since the first century (Acts 20:7). As a believer, you also may partake of the bread and fruit of the vine now. Each time you take the Lord's Supper remember what the Lord has done for you by His death on the cross. Throughout your life you need to keep the Word of God in your heart and on your mind. Matthew 28:18-20 is one passage you certainly want to remember. Your assignment today is to memorize this passage. Let me show you a simple way to commit Bible verses to memory.

1. Write or type this verse out on a pocket-sized card. Check it carefully to be sure every word is correct.
2. Read the first line aloud three times, so you can see it and hear it at the same time. Turn the card over and say it without looking. Repeat the process until you can say it word for word. Do the same with each line.
3. Carry this card all day. Look at it once in awhile to see if you still know the verse.

We convince ourselves that memorizing scripture is hard but actually it is not. If three verses are too long for you, memorize Matthew 28:19. But try 28:18-20 first. You might surprise yourself.



# Day 8

## MARK 1-5

### REVIEW

Today you will be reading Mark 1-5. Mark is a more concise version of what you read in Matthew. Luke and John will also tell of the life of Jesus. Why does God's Word contain four accounts of the life of Jesus? Because Jesus is what we are all about.

### READ

Each gospel looks at Christ from a slightly different angle. When combined, the four gospels give us a clearer picture of our Lord. Read Mark 1-5 at this time.

### REFLECT

Do you remember the way you did your quiet time on day four? Do the same with this passage. In your notes write, God said, "(your name), I would like to see you work on..." Write out the message God spoke to you as you were reading the first chapters of Mark.

After you finish, write out your prayer the same way you did on day four. Prayer has not been mentioned every day, but hopefully you are spending time each day talking with your Heavenly Father.

Write out your memory verse from yesterday in your notes without looking. Then grade yourself to see how well you know Matthew 28:18-20.

If you have difficulty reading, you may want to think about finding a recorded copy of the Bible. There are free ones on the internet and also phone downloads of audio Bibles. Listening and reading at the same time can enhance your comprehension of what you are studying. Be sure you read along, though. Simply listening to the tape is too shallow, and you tend to get distracted by other things if your eyes are not busy along with your ears. Bible bookstores carry the Bible on CDs.



# Day 9

## MARK 6-9

### REVIEW

Many Christians have wonderful daily quiet times year after year and never lose their enthusiasm. Most will tell you the secret to their success is making sure their time with God does not become monotonous. Keep your quiet time fresh and enjoyable by changing things up once in a while. So just for a change, start your quiet time with prayer this morning. Pray that God will bless your Bible study and teach you what you need to know.

### READ

There is so much to learn from each of these daily readings. The knowledge can seem a bit overwhelming, but you do not have to learn it all at once. Think about learning only one thing each day. If you only learn one thing every day you will learn many important life skills by Day Fifty-two. Sometimes we put too much pressure on ourselves. Relax. Enjoy your Bible study. Enjoy spending time with your heavenly Father who created you and loves you very much. Today your reading is Mark 6-9.

### REFLECT

In chapter seven Jesus explains how sin begins in our hearts making us unclean. Look again at the list of sins in Mark 7:21-22: “evil thoughts, acts of sexual immorality, thefts, murders, acts of adultery, deeds of greed...” Are you harboring any of these sins in your heart right now? Before you were baptized you repented of your iniquities, but they will creep back into your life if you are not careful. Be open about any attitudes you have that are un-Christlike with your Christian partner. Confess your sin and ask your partner if you can pray together about it.



# Day 10

## MARK 10-12

### READ

For Day Ten please begin where you left off yesterday in Mark and read through chapter 12. Notice, as you are reading, the impact Jesus has on everyone He comes in contact with. Some hated Him. Some loved Him, but nobody was ever indifferent about Jesus. He was controversial. He was strong. He was tender. He was... Well, He was Jesus. There was no one like Him.

### REFLECT

The rich young man reacted to Jesus in a surprising way. "What shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?" (10:17). He asked the right question but did not receive the answer he was expecting. Jesus said he needed to keep all the commandments? "No problem," thought the rich man. He had been keeping them since he was a boy. "One thing you lack... sell all you possess and give to the poor" (10:21). Jesus rocked his world. Money was this man's god and Jesus knew it. The Master did not ask other followers to go sell all their possessions. Why did he ask this man to do it? Because he loved his money too much. How important is money to you? More important than God? Write down some thoughts on what you believe is the biblical attitude you should have toward money.

Hopefully you are getting with your discipling partner on a weekly basis and staying in touch. Share your notes together and talk about any passages you are having difficulty understanding. Whenever you find a passage you do not understand, write down the chapter and verse and what your question is. Your Christian partner may not have the answer, but together you can find out. You are still a babe in Christ. Regardless of how old you are chronologically you still have much to learn. Be humble and do not be afraid to have something explained for you.



# Day 11

MARK 13-16

## REVIEW

Jesus was innocent of the crimes they accused Him of. After flogging and making fun of Him they nailed Him to the cross on a hill outside of Jerusalem known as Golgotha. There He died an agonizing death so that by His sacrifice our sins might be forgiven. On the third day after His death Jesus arose from the tomb.

## READ

For Day Eleven your reading assignment is Mark 13-16. As you read keep in mind that your freedom from sin was purchased at a very high cost.

## REFLECT

Peter denied three times that he was associated with Christ. Imagine being in Peter's shoes after he did that. How horrible that must have felt. He believed that he was ready to die for Jesus (14:31). You may have your weak moments, but no matter what happens do not deny your Lord. Acknowledge Jesus by the way you live day to day.

Write out your memory verse from day seven to make sure you have not forgotten it. This is a great passage to have on your mind daily.

Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19 are parallel verses. Notice both passages talk about GOING to make disciples. Jesus wants us to always be watching for opportunities to make new disciples. Give your discipling partner a call and ask if you can get together this week and reach out some way in the community. Set a time to meet non-Christians in some casual setting. Go to a coffee shop, game room, laundry mat or any place you might be able to meet and invite people. Care about people the way Christ did. Pray that God will bless your outreach together.



# Day 12

## LUKE 1-3

### REVIEW

Luke was a Gentile doctor. He was a traveling companion and possibly a convert of the Apostle Paul (Colossians 4:14; Acts 20:6). He wrote the Gospel of Luke as well as Acts. His letters are both addressed to a man named Theophilus but are clearly intended for a general audience.

### READ

Luke's chapters are longer than those in the other gospels, so let's read only the first three chapters of Luke for today.

### REFLECT

Luke 2 contains the only biblical record of Jesus as a young boy. It describes his parents losing track of him briefly. They finally find Him at the temple in Jerusalem. "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" (2:49). Jesus was regularly in His Father's house. In the same way, you also need to be in your Father's house, with your Christian family. Every time the church meets together you should be there. If work or school is preventing you from making it to church, talk to your employer/counselor/teacher/coach about changing your schedule so you can attend services. Most people will work with you once they see church is important in your life. If you are not making it to church consistently make a change right now. You need the strength of fellowshiping with your church family. In your notes, write out a plan for what you can do today to make sure you are at church next Sunday and/or midweek Bible class.

Turn back in your notes to Day Four and read the prayer you wrote. Has God answered your prayer yet? God answers prayers in different ways. Sometimes He wants to wait before He gives you what you ask. Sometimes He does not give it to you at all. His answer is "No." He has that right. He is God, you know. Sometimes His answer is "Yes." Take a moment to thank God for answering your prayer, even if the answer was "No."



# Day 13

LUKE 4-7

## REVIEW

Yesterday you read the song of Mary as she rejoiced at being chosen by God. Zechariah also sang a song of joy for the part he was allowed to play in the coming of Jesus to this earth. Are you grateful for the way God has chosen you to be part of His divine plan? Why not take a moment to let Him know how you feel either through song or prayer. We do not have to wait until Sunday morning to sing to God.

## READ

As you read Luke 4-7 you will see for the third time how Jesus started His ministry. This time, from a different angle. Watch your Lord as He chooses twelve disciples and pours His life into them.

## REFLECT

Jesus prepared for his ministry by fasting for forty days. Fasting is a period of denying food to your body. It is accompanied by prayer, and intensifies the seriousness of the matter being prayed about. Whenever you have a weighty matter you need to present before the Lord, you should consider fasting about it. Before you do, find a concordance and look up all the scriptures that deal with this subject. Talk it over with your Christian partner. Be sure you're ready physically before you try an extended fast.

Every time the Devil tempted Jesus, He answered him with a passage of scripture (4:1-13). The Bible is the best weapon you have for fighting off Satan. Read it. Commit to memory any verses that will help you make wise choices. Learn to love, respect and appreciate the Bible.



# Day 14

LUKE 8-10

## REVIEW

Now you have been a Christian for two weeks and you are learning something from God's Word every day. Keep it up and don't let Satan ruin a good thing. Renew your promise before God to work all the way through My First 52 Days In Christ without missing a single day. Your wall against sin and Satan is rising up steadily, but you still have a few gaps to fill in.

## READ

In your reading today, Luke 8-10, take special notice of the instructions Jesus gives His disciples each time He sends them out to preach. We will talk about it when you get finished.

## REFLECT

Jesus gave His disciples specific instructions on how they were to go about preaching the Word in the surrounding towns and neighborhoods. In your notes write down any instructions that can help you with your outreach. For instance, what did Jesus mean by shaking the dust off their feet? Are there times when we must also shake the dust off of our feet and move on to work with the next person? Does that mean we give up on people?

One of the best ways for you to strengthen your own faith is to strengthen the faith of others. Think of a Christian you would like to give some encouragement to and plan on sending them a note or giving them a call today. Hebrews 3:13 says we should be doing this every day. For this assignment choose someone other than your discipling partner. They need encouragement but you also need to develop relationships with other members of the church.



# Day 15

LUKE 11-13

## REVIEW

It is so great to be a Christian. You wake up every morning knowing God loves you. Your conscience is clear, putting to death sins that once controlled your life. How wonderful to be in the Lord!

## READ

Enjoy your Bible study today as you read Luke 11-13.

## REFLECT

Luke 12:34 is another one of those verses that you should keep in your heart all day long. There is so much truth in this verse. You can tell where people's hearts are by what they put their time and money into. Building treasure on earth is a poor investment compared to heavenly treasures. The things of this life are temporary. There is nothing wrong with saving for the lean years but build your true treasure in heaven.

We talked on Day Five about the importance of setting aside part of your income to put in the offering. This is a meaningful part of your walk with God. Put some thought into this. The offering should be the first item on your budget, the first check you write on payday. Base your giving on a percentage; that way your giving can increase as your income increases. Ten percent is easy to work with and a good place to start. That was what they gave in the Old Testament, but in the new covenant it is up to you to decide how much you want to give. Give what your faith is prompting you to give. Take a moment to write in your notes what your offering to the Lord is going to be. This is part of your worship to God.

Using the technique you learned on Day Seven, commit Luke 12:34 to memory. Follow all the steps and keep the card with you until you go to bed at night. This verse will help you keep your focus on spiritual matters throughout the day.



# Day 16

## LUKE 14-17

### REVIEW

As you read Luke 14-17 today you may find a familiar passage in Luke 14:25-33 from counting the cost before you were baptized.

### READ

Jesus never says following Him will be easy. But it is rewarding. Enjoy your Day Sixteen reading.

### REFLECT

Take a moment to look back through your notes. (Go ahead. I'll wait.) Are your notes clear and easy to understand? Will you be able to understand them a month from now? Have you completed all the assignments? Is your heart truly into what you are doing? Jesus said in Luke 13:24, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able." Another translation says, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, for many will try..." Are you making every effort to enter through the narrow door or are you just trying? There is a difference. The assignments in this study guide are not just busy work. They are designed to strengthen your walk with God. Make every effort to get the most out of your time with God.

The Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-24 is the classic example of how a life can be changed through faith in God. As a sinner, the son came to a realization of his own sinful condition and acknowledged his separation from the Father. After thinking his situation over he made a realistic assessment of his choices. He rehearsed what he was going to do and say and visualized it taking place. Then he repented of his evil ways and humbly returned to the Father. A change in belief leads to a change in thought and feeling which leads to a change in behavior. Remember this example next time you need to repent of your sins or need to help someone work through a change in their life. Just follow this biblical pattern.



# Day 17

## LUKE 18-21

### REVIEW

Yesterday you read about the ten lepers Jesus healed in Luke 17:11f. (“f” when giving a scripture reference means “and the following verses.”) Only one out of ten returned to thank Jesus. How ungrateful! If you are not the kind of person who thanks others for helping you, I hope you will make a change in your life and attitude. Thank the person who cared enough about you to teach you the gospel, the elders at church, the one who teaches your Bible class or preaches the sermons. Thank your Christian partner for helping you grow these past seventeen days. Have an attitude of gratitude.

### READ

For Day Seventeen you will be reading Luke 18-21. Remember that if you see something you do not understand, write down the verse and what your question is in your notes. Never be afraid to have something explained to you. Ask your discipling partner to help you understand God’s Word.

### REFLECT

Polish your spectacles and focus in on Luke 20:20. (Get it? “Focus”, “20/20”? Never mind.) The text says, “So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous.” Or another translation says “... who pretended to be honest.” They PRETENDED to be honest? That’s pretty sad. If you have to PRETEND to be honest, are you honestly being honest? Honest is something you are or you aren’t. If you are pretending, then you aren’t. In your notes, write down an honest appraisal of your own honesty. Can people trust what you say? Is your word as “good as gold”? Reputation is a valuable commodity to be gained, a terrible thing to lose. In your profession, or prospective profession, be honest.



# Day 18

LUKE 22-24

## READ

Another book draws to a close today, the Gospel of Luke. Please read the last three chapters.

## REFLECT

How can we know for certain that Christ was truly resurrected? From the historical account, what other option is there? Below are six theories used in an attempt to explain away the resurrection.

1. Jesus was not completely dead. They only thought He was, but He revived by Sunday morning.
2. Jesus was never resurrected. The disciples stole the body and made up the story of His resurrection.
3. The guards stole the body.
4. Crushed with grief, the women went to the wrong tomb. Finding it empty they assumed Christ was raised.
5. Nobody really saw the resurrected Messiah. They wanted Him to come back so badly they only thought they saw Him.
6. The reason the tomb was empty is because man-eating insects came and ate the body.

In your notes, address the problems with each of these theories. (In addition to what you have read so far in Matthew, Mark and Luke you may want to read John 19:28-37; 20:24-31, Acts 1:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.) This exercise is to get you in the habit of using scripture to respond to those who opposes the message of the gospel. Become familiar with the biblical account so you can clearly see what is contrary to God's Word.

Jesus Christ was resurrected on the third day as the scriptures teach. In your prayer time be sure and thank God for Jesus and the power of His resurrection.



# Day 19

## JOHN 1-4

### REVIEW

Good Morning! Today is a brand new day with no mistakes in it. Today is whatever you make of it. Make it a great day. Today also marks the beginning of a new book, the Gospel of John.

### READ

This is the fourth and final gospel, written by the apostle who walked more closely with Jesus than anyone. John was the brother of James, and probably the youngest apostle. See the Messiah from a different angle now as you read the first four chapters of John.

### REFLECT

“The Word” referred to in 1:1 is Jesus (see verse 14). So that means, “In the beginning was [Jesus], and [Jesus] was with God and [Jesus] was God.” Jesus was God in the flesh. While He walked the earth Jesus was 100% deity and 100% man. Mathematically that does not add up, but biblically it is the truth. Some cults try to lure you into their beliefs by claiming the teaching of the trinity is false. Just because we cannot scientifically explain something does not mean it is not true. Study this out carefully and prepare to defend this belief. Organize your thoughts and record your argument in your notes. Here are additional scriptures for your study: John 5:16-18; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 1:1-8; Revelation 1:8,17.

Are you involved in an individual Bible study with a non-Christian? If not, find out this week if one of your brothers or sisters in Christ has a study going on or one starting soon that you can participate in. Learn to share your faith. Watching an experienced church member study with someone is a great way to learn. Not everyone in the church can be full time evangelists but we can all do something to help expand the kingdom of God. Do something to lead others to Jesus.



# Day 20

## JOHN 5-7

### REVIEW

Christianity is a way of life. Some who claim to be Christians treat their faith as a once-a-week activity, but Christianity is not just what you do on Sunday. It's 24/7. Guard against an attitude of minimal Christianity. The world has enough people who merely attend church. God needs believers who are fully devoted to the work. Become a disciple who walks daily with God.

### READ

Now, walk with God through John 5-7.

### REFLECT

The Gospel of John emphasizes the timing Jesus had in His ministry. In John 2 Jesus' mother wanted him to provide more to drink at a wedding. He told her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come" (2:4). Jesus knew certain acts would call attention to Himself and hasten His own death and Jesus had specific tasks to accomplish before His time on earth was over. In John 7, Jesus' brothers wanted Him to go to Jerusalem for the feast. "My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune." (7:6). Again Jesus mentions the timing. You can trace this theme clear through the gospel of John up until Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane and He prays, "Father, the hour has come" (17:1). Timing is essential in the ministry. There are responsibilities in the kingdom you are ready for now. There are others you are not ready for. Be patient and learn this valuable lesson from Jesus. Your time will come.

Some mistakenly believe Jesus is teaching about the Lord's Supper in chapter 6. He is not. Look through 6:32f again and see if you can tell why this is **not** talking about the Lord's Supper. Take notes. Discuss it with your Christian partner. Make the effort to learn what this passage means.



# Day 21

JOHN 8-11

## REVIEW

Hopefully these quiet times have become the highlight of your day. You should look forward to spending time reading and learning about God. If not, you should do them anyway. Here is why. Let's say you woke up this morning, and your body just didn't feel like breathing. Maybe you were getting tired of breathing every day. Should you skip breathing for a day? That could be a problem. You may not feel like having your study time every day but do it anyway for the sake of your spiritual health. Let it become as natural to you as breathing.

## READ

Breathe deeply from John 8-11 for Day Twenty-one.

## REFLECT

When the woman in John 8 was caught in the act of adultery, she could have been stoned to death according to the law. She deserved death, but instead she received mercy. Does that sound like anybody you know? Three weeks ago, you were lost in your sins. You deserved death according to Romans 6:23, but instead you received God's mercy and your sins were pardoned. God's kindness has resulted in forgiveness and salvation for you. Never take for granted the goodness and compassion of God. Without it we would all be lost.

John 8:36 says, "So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free." Free indeed. Through Christ there is real freedom. Once you were shackled by sin but Christ has set you free. Do you like that verse? Well then, write it out on a card and commit this verse to memory. What a wonderful thought to have on your mind all day. God's Word is so rich with encouraging messages. Allow God to guide you this day by the encouragement you have received from His Word.



# Day 22

## JOHN 12-16

### READ

As you read John 12-16 today look for the identifying marks of a Christian. They will be discussed in today's exercise.

### REFLECT

The Gospel of John teaches us how to identify a true Christian. Consider the following passages:

- 4:24 - A true worshipper is one who **must** worship in spirit and in truth.
- 8:31 - A true disciple holds to the teachings of Jesus.
- 10:14 - Jesus' true sheep know their Shepherd.
- 12:26 - True followers of Jesus will go only where He would go, do only what He would do.
- 13:35 - True disciples will love the other disciples.
- 15:8 - True disciples bear lasting fruit for God.

Before you became a Christian, you had to admit you were lost. That was hard, but it can be even harder to admit your friends and relatives may not be saved. Your loved ones may be religious and/or morally good, but that does not mean they are saved. Are they worshipping in spirit and truth? Do they hold to Jesus' teachings? You will not be urgent about leading others to salvation if you cannot accept the fact that the lost are lost. Only when their condition bothers you, will you do something about it. This may be difficult for you to accept. You are not their judge, but you need to be resolved in your own mind that people need Jesus, and if you care you will say something to them.

Jesus was indisputably the greatest leader the world has ever known. While many lead with an iron fist, Jesus led with a towel and a wash basin, John 13:5. Write some of your thoughts about what you have observed so far about the way Jesus leads others.



# Day 23

JOHN 17-21

## READ

This is no ordinary day. Today you will be reading John's account of the single most important event in human history. Do not merely read John 17-21; experience it. Be a sparrow sitting in a tree as you witness the trial, crucifixion, burial and resurrection of your Lord. Place yourself there and let the realization of what is happening sink in.

## REFLECT

Our Lord prayed about personal issues in 17:1-5. Then He prayed for the apostles in 17:6-19. Finally, He prayed for us in 17:20-26 ("for those also who believe in Me through their word"). Jesus had people He needed to pray for. You do too. In your notes make a list of people you need to pray for. Anyone who has come forward during the invitation should be on that list and all new Christians. Add the non-Christians who are being studied with and those you have been inviting to church. Include the elders and other church leaders. Now pray through your list. Please pray for them every day for the next seven days.

"Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these" (21:15)? Simon Peter had been through a great humiliation when he denied Jesus three times. He thought he was ready to stand for Jesus no matter what the cost, but he fell flat on his face the first time he was challenged.

"Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." (21:15). It is true that our Lord knows whether we love Him or not. He can tell whether our hearts are purely devoted to Him. Christ knows your heart. Do you truly love Him? Then feed his sheep.



# Day 24

## ACTS 1-4

### REVIEW

You have finished reading the four gospels. Now it is time to read the book of Acts. You already know from the notes on Day Twelve that Luke wrote Acts. This book follows on the heels of the Gospel of Luke and explains what happens after Jesus ascends to heaven.

### READ

You are about to read the history of the beginning of the Lord's church. Let's tackle the first four chapters today.

### REFLECT

The church began on Pentecost with 3,000 baptisms. That would have been something great to see. And then, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (2:42). These baby Christians were devoted. One doesn't have to wait several years to become a devoted Christian. You can be devoted today. In your notes write down what this verse means to you. What is another word for devoted? Explain what it means to be devoted. Explain what it means to be devoted in the four aspects of Christianity mentioned in Acts 2:42.

Look at Acts 2:46 and see how often the early church met together. That's right. It was every day. If our first century brothers were willing to meet together every day, is it asking too much that we meet together 3 times a week? They were just as busy then as we are today, but they made time to be together because it was important to them.

We assemble to encourage one another. God has someone He needs you to encourage at the next assembly, and someone is going to encourage you. When you are not there, you break the chain of encouragement. Make it your goal to be at every assembly. Be there early. Hang around afterward to talk with fellow Christians. Be devoted to the fellowship.



# Day 25

## ACTS 5-8

### REVIEW

Good morning. I trust you slept well. Pause for a moment before you begin your quiet time and clear your mind. Take several deep breaths. Let go of any tension you may have this morning. Relax and enjoy your time with God. Begin this morning by praying about your Bible study and what you are about to learn.

In yesterday's reading did you notice how generous the early church was in helping each other (2:45; 4:32-37)? The Christians cared about each other and gave all they could. When an offering is made, it costs the worshipper something. The early Christians didn't seem to mind. They gave much because they believed in the mission of the church. The secret to giving is faith. When you are giving do it in faith.

### READ

Please read Acts 5-8.

### REFLECT

After the church started with 3,000 baptisms, Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 4:4 says, "But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand." Acts 5:14 says, "And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number." Acts 6:1 continues, "Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number." Verse seven goes on to say, "The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith." Jesus designed His church so that it would grow. Is the church you belong to growing? Record your thoughts on what your congregation is doing about growth. Find out what you can do to help the church to grow.



# Day 26

## ACTS 9-12

### REVIEW

Saul of Tarsus gave approval at the stoning of Steven in Acts 7 and persecuted the Church in Acts 8.

### READ

In today's reading, Acts 9-12; Saul's whole life is about to turn upside down. See for yourself. Saul is about to be transformed into the apostle Paul.

### REFLECT

Ananias was sent to Saul to restore his sight and help him receive the Holy Spirit (9:17). Saul received the Holy Spirit when he was baptized (9:18), just as you did nearly four weeks ago. What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity. He is the Counselor (John 15:25). He convicts us of our sins (John 16:8) and guided the apostles to all the truth (16:13). In Acts 10, which you read today, unbelievers received a miraculous manifestation of God's Spirit. This was a unique circumstance. God had to do something radical to get the attention of Peter and the other Jews regarding Gentile conversion. Miraculous gifts were available through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. What we receive today is the indwelling of God's Spirit, which is not the same as receiving the miraculous gifts. Is this something you need to learn more about? Please write down any questions you have about the Holy Spirit. Contact your Christian partner to discuss them.

Remember to pray for each person on your prayer list which you started on Day Twenty-three. See if you can get your name on the prayer lists of others. Never underestimate the power of prayer.



# Day 27

## ACTS 13-16

### REVIEW

Let's pause for a moment and talk about what we are trying to accomplish here. There are certain spiritual habits that mark healthy disciples of Christ. The goal of *My First Fifty-Two Days* is to help you develop these good habits gradually. By Day Fifty-two the goal is to have you in the daily habit of Bible study and prayer; attending church consistently, giving cheerfully and sharing your faith as a way of life. But ultimately the chief aim is to get you to fall head-over-heels in love with God. If you accomplish that, the rest will take care of itself. Day Twenty-seven marks the beginning of the second half of this journey through the New Testament. The wall is looking good.

### READ

For Day Twenty-seven you will be reading Acts 13-16. Two great men of God have a dispute with one another in chapter fifteen. (Even among good brothers this sometimes happens.) See if you can learn how to settle disputes by studying the example of Paul and Barnabas.

### REFLECT

Barnabas' real name was Joseph (Acts 4:36). He got the name Barnabas as more of a nickname. It means the "Son of Encouragement." That was the reputation he earned. He was always encouraging someone, always believing in people even when no one else would. How would you like to have a reputation like that? You may have a reputation you're not proud of. It takes some doing, but you can change your reputation. In your notes write down what you would like to be known for. If it is encouraging, then start today by encouraging others. It takes time to build a reputation, but who knows. One day you might be known as ...



# Day 28

## ACTS 17-20

### READ

The text you will be reading today, Acts 17-20, is about the missionary journeys of Paul. Try to get into Paul's head today. What made this man tick? Where did he get his insatiable desire to preach the gospel, many times at the peril of his own life? Begin your reading at this time.

### REFLECT

The Bereans were "examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so," 17:11. As you listen to sermons and classes make sure you are testing what you here against the standard of God's Word. Do not base where you spend eternity on what someone tells you. Check out everything in the Bible before you believe or practice it. Don't turn into a hypercritical troublemaker in the church. Just be smart about following biblical teaching.

Have you ever thought about doing missionary work? The church is always in need of missionaries to strengthen the Lord's work all over the world or to start new works. You do not have to be planning to go into full-time preaching in order to go on a mission. The church sends out hundreds of members on missions who have secular careers. If you think you would be interested in something like this, talk to your church leaders about it.

Remember that you also have a mission work right here. Look around you. There are people all over this community that need to hear about Jesus. You are the instrument chosen by God to get the message to them. You are in a position to reach certain souls that no one else can reach. Watch for the opportunities God will be placing before you today. Pray to your Father that he will give you the boldness to proclaim His message with confidence as you know you should.



# Day 29

## ACTS 21-24

### REVIEW

God's Word gives us strength to face the challenges of each new day. If you have a trial you are facing in your life, there may be something in your quiet time today that will give you some guidance.

### READ

Let God fill your cup as you read Acts 21-24.

### REFLECT

"Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (22:16). The three key phrases in this verse are stated as taking place simultaneously. In other words, when we are baptized, our sins are washed away and we are calling on His name. Our sins are cleansed at the point in time when we are immersed into Christ. Our baptism also calls on Jesus' name to be our own, much like a wife calls on the name of her husband when they are married. Acts 2:21 says, "AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." Some think that means you have to call out, "Hey, Lord!" to be saved. No, we call on the name of the Lord when we are united with Him in baptism. When Peter's listeners wanted to know what to do to be right with God later on in this same chapter, Peter told them to repent and be baptized (2:38). Did Peter contradict what he told them in verse 21? No, being baptized and calling on His name is one in the same thing.

Felix seemed to enjoy studying with Paul until Paul started teaching him about "righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come" (24:25). At that point the Bible says, "Felix became frightened." What was he afraid of? Why did he ask Paul to leave? Write down what you have learned from Felix's example. Explain the similarity with how people respond to the gospel today.



# Day 30

## ACTS 25-28

### REVIEW

It is time to update your prayer list, if you haven't already. Add any new names you need to and delete those that no longer need your prayers. You can do this daily if you like. You should update it at least once a week.

### READ

Now it is time to see what God has to say to you. Today you will be reading the rest of the book of Acts. Go ahead and do that at this time.

### REFLECT

You may remember the process of change we discussed on Day Sixteen. We see a similar pattern in Acts 26. Paul said, "I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (26:9). Paul's beliefs affected how he thought and felt about Jesus and His followers. This resulted in the actions that are described in verses 10-11. In order to change his actions Paul had to change how he thought and felt about Christ. His thoughts and feelings did not change until he changed his beliefs. This process is described in verses 12-18. If you want to change your behavior, start by changing what you believe about what makes the behavior right or wrong. That will effect the way you think and feel about the behavior which leads to change.

Acts ends abruptly. What happened to Paul in the end? After the two years of probation mentioned in 28:30, Paul was acquitted. Historians believe he went from there to Spain and then to Asia Minor for a couple of years. He was arrested again for religious upheaval and convicted in Rome. Historians believe he was beheaded about AD 67. Only in eternity will we know the amount of good this brother accomplished. Tomorrow we will start reading his letters.



# Day 31

## ROMANS 1-5

### REVIEW

Today you will begin reading a new section of the Bible known as the Letters. These letters were all written to churches or individuals by God inspired men. That means men wrote the words down, but they were guided by the Holy Spirit. We are reading God's message when we read the Bible. Romans is the first of Paul's letters which we will be reading. The church in Rome was a mixture of Jews and Romans (referred to as Gentiles in the Bible). They did not get along. Much of this letter is dedicated to healing the faction between them.

### READ

Paul is writing this around 56 A.D., several years before he was arrested and transported to Rome. Read Romans 1-5 to get started this morning.

### REFLECT

Paul acknowledges that the invisible qualities of God "have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (1:20). There truly is no excuse for not acknowledging that God is real and active in our world. We can see the evidences of His creation. You should be familiar with the evidences that prove God's existence. Even if you do not have any doubts about God's existence, you will be in contact with others who do. It is needful for you to have a basic understanding of the arguments proving that God does exist. Your assignment for today is to find more information on this subject and read up on it. On Day Thirty-four you will have an assignment to record your findings.

Romans is a rich book. You will only have three days to read it this time through the Bible, but you should study it more intensely later on. Romans spells out the basic scheme of redemption for mankind. It describes man's lost condition, the need for salvation and the way salvation is obtained.



# Day 32

## ROMANS 6-10

### REVIEW

Romans 2:28 says, “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.” In the same way, a Christian is not really a Christian if it is all about the outward appearance. Christ did not die on the cross you change your appearance. He wants to change your life.

### READ

As you read today think about allowing God to change you from the inside out. Continuing on in Romans, please read chapters 6-10 at this time.

### REFLECT

Chapters 6, 7 and 8 describe the inner conflict we face as we wrestle with temptation and our sinful cravings. You may have noticed that Paul switches directions in 7:14 and begins to talk about himself without Jesus’ guidance. He talks about the frustration of not having any way to overcome the sin in his life. As Christians, we struggle with temptation but we do have a way to overcome sin. By the end of chapter 7, Paul acknowledges that God rescued him. God rescued you from your sins as well, just last month. Write some thoughts in your notes about how your life has changed since you have come to know Christ. You may want to reread 8:5-9 as you do this assignment.

Any time you read the Bible, you want to always make it applicable to your situation. Read 6:1-4 again, but take out the word “we” and insert the word “I”. Read it in the first-person-singular. “What shall [I] say then? [Am I] to continue in sin so that grace may increase?” etc. The Bible was written for all mankind, but it is God’s personal message to you. Get in the habit of thinking about the Bible that way.



# Day 33

## ROMANS 11-16

### READ

Can you fall away from the Lord? Can a person who is saved become unsaved again? Think about this question as you read Romans 11-16.

### REFLECT

The natural branches described in chapter 11 verses 17-21 are the Israelites and the wild branches are the Gentiles. God has broken off some of the Israelites from His family tree. (Technically they broke themselves off by their disobedience.) Then God grafted in non-Jews. Those of us who are not Jews have been blessed with the opportunity to be part of God's family. But we should not be prideful about it, "for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either" (11:21). Just as some of the Jews have been broken off God's tree for their unbelief, we can also be broken off if we do not continue to grow receiving nourishment from the root. Is Paul saying you can fall away? He most certainly is. Some denominations falsely teach that once you are saved you cannot fall away from grace. What does the Bible say?

Romans 15:14 explains that we, as Christians, are competent to counsel (instruct, give direction to) one another. The church should be doing the counseling for its members. If you need counseling of any kind, seek spiritual counsel. Take your needs to the church. If you have a situation the leadership in your congregation does not feel comfortable with, they can direct you to others in our brotherhood trained to handle specialized problems. Some issues are caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain requiring a chemical correction. That's a different situation. For those instances you may need to go outside the church, but for matters pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), Christians should counsel Christians.



# Day 34

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1-7

### REVIEW

Are you starting to see the value of daily Bible study? It does your heart good. Bible reading instills in you a constant awareness of the presence of God. It also encourages you to stay pure.

### READ

Today you will read 1 Corinthians 1-7. The church in Corinth had many problems. Paul writes an aggressive letter urging them to repent of their sins. Let his letter encourage you to be firm in your convictions.

### REFLECT

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1:18). Christianity appears rather foolish to the lost. They will not accept its truth. Four days ago you looked up information on proofs of the existence of God. Now, organize your findings. In your notes answer the following question. How can I know for certain that there is a God?

On Day Five you learned how the church is to take action when a member is involved in sin. These steps had not been taken with the brother referred to in chapter five of today’s reading. How should the church in Corinth have handled the situation and what did Paul say should be done at this point?

Sexual immorality destroys the faith and lives of Christians. It starts with lust. Stay away from pornography, dirty movies, and situations that cause you to lust. Do not get involved in any sexual situation unless it is with the person you are married to. “Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,” (6:13).



# Day 35

## 1 CORINTHIANS 8-16

### READ

The church in Corinth was a mess but God still loved them and inspired Paul to write this letter to help them out. Today you will be reading the rest of 1 Corinthians beginning with chapter 8. There are many interesting passages in this reading. We will discuss some of them when you are finished.

### REFLECT

Paul was always thinking about how to lead people to Jesus. His goal was to “gain more” or “to win as many as possible”, as he stated in 9:19. Is this your goal as well? If you get nothing else out of reading through the New Testament, hopefully you will walk away from this study with a deep desire to see people become Christians. By now you should be involved in a study with a non-Christian. If you haven’t been reaching out lately, get with your discipling partner and explore effective ways to share your faith.

In your reading of chapter 11, you hopefully learned more about the Lord’s Supper. The church in Corinth turned this sacred time into a big feast. The rich were meeting early so they could eat all the food they brought without having to share it with the poorer members. This was so backwards from what Christ intended His church to be like.

Speaking in tongues is discussed extensively in chapters twelve and fourteen. The early church was able to receive miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit. They could speak languages of other nations without having to learn them. Paul told the Corinthians these miraculous gifts would cease, 13:8. When were they supposed to cease according to this text? Have they ceased yet? Do Christians still have the miraculous gifts today? Write down your questions about the miraculous gift including the gift of tongues. Get with your Christian partner and talk about it.



# Day 36

## 2 CORINTHIANS 1-7

### REVIEW

Paul's writes again to the church in Corinth. There is evidence that Paul may have written two other letters to Corinth that are not part of the Bible. The other letters are referred to in 1 Corinthians 5:9 and 2 Corinthians 2:4. Paul was an inspired writer but that does not mean every single thing he wrote was God inspired and should have been canonized in the Bible. Paul probably wrote to his Mother at some point. That doesn't mean it should be in the Bible, so don't be surprised if a book is mentioned but not included in the Bible. 2 Corinthians was an instructional letter based on things Paul had heard from Titus, 7:5-7. This book was written in 55 A.D.

### READ

In the first seven chapters of this letter, Paul explains why he has been behaving toward the Corinthians the way he has. Please read these chapters at this time.

### REFLECT

What did Paul mean when he said, "Do not be bound together with unbelievers;" (6:14)? Several translations use the phrase "unequally yoked with unbelievers." A yoke was an instrument used to harness two animals together for a purpose like pulling a plow. Since marriage is the closest relationship between people, this passage refers at least to that relationship and perhaps others. Christians should marry Christians. If you are not married, plan to marry a believer if and when the time comes. It would be wise to date believers since you wind up marrying someone you have been dating. If you are married already, then follow what the Bible teaches on what you as a Christian should do to have a strong marriage. The Bible teaches us how to have a good marriage. God wants you to avoid the hardships caused by being unequally yoked. Marriage is holy and precious. Let God guide your marriage.

Keep up the daily habit of your prayer list. Do not forget to update it and spend quality time talking with your heavenly Father.



# Day 37

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8-13

### REVIEW

1 Timothy 4:8 says, “for bodily training is *just* slightly beneficial, but godliness is beneficial for all things.” The Bible says there is some value in physical training and exercise. It is important to keep yourself physically fit, but it is not more important than staying spiritually fit. It is good for you to have an exercise plan for staying physically healthy, but it is more important to stay on your spiritual training regimen. Here is your spiritual exercise for today.

### READ

We will be getting to 1 Timothy pretty soon. For now, you still need to finish 2 Corinthians. Paul has more to say about walking the Christian walk and “taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,” (10:5). As you read 2 Corinthians 8-13 today notice what Paul has to say about our attitude toward giving. Enjoy God’s Word.

### REFLECT

“Now *I* say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.” (9:6). We understand that if a farmer wants to have a bumper crop he can’t be stingy with the seed. If he gives up more seed now, it will pay greater dividends when the harvest comes in. This principle applies to many aspects of our walk with God. If you are stingy in how much time you devote to prayer and Bible study, you cannot expect to reap big rewards when it comes to a rich relationship with God. If you are stingy with the time you devote to your family, you cannot expect them to be close to you. If you hold back in the offering you make at Sunday services, you will reap sparingly as well. On the other hand, if you sow generously, you will reap generously. Can you think of other areas in your life where this principle applies?



# Day 38

## GALATIANS

### REVIEW

This morning you will be reading the letter to the Galatians. These letters you are reading were all written to be read in one sitting. When you get a letter from someone, you read it all at once, not one verse at a time. Same thing here. If you read the whole letter straight through you are reading it the way it was intended to be read. Galatia was not a city; it was a province, like a state, halfway between Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

### READ

Paul was not happy with the churches (plural) in the province of Galatia and he lets them know about it. As you read Galatians, see if you notice any indications that Paul was more than a little miffed at these Christians.

### REFLECT

Could you tell Paul was upset? “I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;” (1:6). If you wanted to make Paul mad, just mess with the gospel. Paul seemed to think the gospel was not supposed to change. Not ever. Do you know what? Paul was right. The gospel that you learned and obeyed must never change. You need to be like a pit bull when it comes to the gospel. Latch on and don’t ever let go. If you compromise the gospel you are deserting “Him who called you,” which is a costly mistake.

Can you fall away from grace after you have become a Christian? We discussed that question already on Day Thirty-three. Read Galatians 5:4 again. Does that answer the question?

We are taught in 6:2 to carry each other’s burdens. Do you know a Christian who is burdened right now? Think of a way you can lighten their load. Put a plan into action to help them before your head touches the pillow tonight.



# Day 39

## EPHESIANS

### REVIEW

Today you will be reading the letter of Ephesians. This is the church Paul, along with Priscilla and Aquila, established in Ephesus which you read about in Acts 18:18-23. He visited Ephesus on his next missionary journey and stayed there for three years, Acts 19:1-41. Paul wrote most of his letters while he was in jail. This one was probably no exception. Scholars date its authorship at 60 A.D.

### READ

Read Ephesians for your quiet time today.

### REFLECT

Ephesians 5:19 commands us to be, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” In the Lord’s church we sing our hymns a’capella, without instruments. That’s because this is the type of music that was used in the first century church. The word a’cappella means “in chapel style.” The church in Ephesus did not use musical instruments in their worship services. Neither did the churches in Galatia. In fact, no church you are going to read about in the New Testament used instruments in worshipping God. Since God is the object of our worship we worship according to the pattern of His Word. Worship is about doing what pleases the Lord.

The subject of submission, which Paul brings up in 5:22f is a sensitive one in our day and age. Liberals like to use this passage to brand Paul as a “woman-hater”, but that is false. Paul did not hate or look down on women in any way. It was quite the opposite in fact. Paul commands the husbands to love their wives the way Jesus loved His church. Jesus loved the church so much He died for her. Paul demands that wives receive that type of love. Does this sound like a “woman-hater” to you? Godly submission of a wife to her husband is not a derogatory teaching. It is God’s design for the home. The wife is in a supportive role for the good of the family, and it works beautifully when the husband and wife follow all of what this passage teaches.



# Day 40

## PHILIPPIANS

### REVIEW

Good morning! You have a special treat today. You will be reading that great book of joy, the book of Philippians. The words “joy” or “rejoice” are mentioned fourteen times in these four chapters. Ironically, Paul wrote these words while he was chained up in a Roman prison.

### READ

Our Brother Paul was able to maintain a positive outlook despite his circumstances. Please do your reading at this time.

### REFLECT

Ever notice how people are in a bad mood whenever the weather is foul? Or do you know someone who is fun to be with until things don't go their way, and then look out? Circumstances do not have to dictate the way that you feel, especially now that you are a Christian. Do some research one of these days on what Roman prisons were like in the first century. Paul had every right to be in a lousy mood, but instead he was enthusiastic and joyful. This same joy can be yours if you will let your joy be determined by your relationship with God, and not by the things of this world.

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (1:21). Take the word “Christ” out of this verse and insert something else. “For to me, to live is [money] and to die is gain.” That’s not true, is it? If you are living for money, death is not a gain. Try the words, “family”, “relationships”, “pleasure” or anything else that people live for. If you are living for anything but Christ this morning, you are living a shallow life. But if you are living for Christ, even death is a gain. With that in mind is there anything you need to pray about this morning?



# Day 41

## COLOSSIANS

### REVIEW

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,  
- Colossians 3:23

This is a sample of the wise teachings you will be learning this morning. Christians should be the best workers on the job. Christians should be the most disciplined students in the classroom. Everything you do, you should do it wholeheartedly. God is watching even when your teacher or your boss is not. God sees your hard work and rewards you even if others do not. Do everything you do for God.

### READ

Read Colossians at this time.

### REFLECT

Epaphras established the church in Colossae (1:7). Paul had never been there (2:1), but he cared about them just the same. As you read the letter to the Colossians you may notice a simplicity in its teaching. Paul is instructing in some of the most basic teachings of our faith.

Chapter three reminds you to constantly put to death your sinful tendencies. The “old you” will keep trying to rise from the dead. Keep your old self dead. In other words, do not return to your old habits. Let Christ live through you (3:4). On one side of the page in your notes list the sins mentioned in 3:5-9. On the other side list the qualities of God’s people mentioned in 3:12-14. Which qualities do you want in your life? Take the sins out of your life and replace them with the qualities God wants you to have.



# Day 42

## 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

### REVIEW

You are to be commended for your dedication to studying God's Word. Very few people, even among those who claim to follow Christ, take the time to listen to what God's Word has to say to us. People get to the end of their lives with many different regrets. Some may regret that they didn't save enough for retirement, or spend enough time with their kids, or travel enough. Have you ever met anyone who regretted spending too much time reading the Bible? You are setting a pattern for daily Bible reading that hopefully will stay with you the rest of your life. You are never going to regret having made that decision. You have chosen to do what is right. God will bless you for it.

### READ

Paul wrote two letters to the Thessalonian brethren. They are short, so you should have no problem reading them both this morning. Please do so at this time.

### REFLECT

The church in Thessalonica had become idle. They stopped working and were waiting for Jesus to return again, but Jesus did not say when He was going to return. We should always be ready for His return, but that does not mean we stop working and become burdens to others. Paul warns us, "if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either." (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The church is always there for you when you need it but do your best to carry your own weight and live a productive life.



# Day 43

## 1 & 2 TIMOTHY

### REVIEW

Paul also penned two letters to Timothy, the young evangelist. You can tell by the way he writes that Paul knows his own life is drawing to a close. Historians place the writing of 2 Timothy at 66 A.D., one year before Paul was beheaded. 2 Timothy was probably the last letter Paul wrote.

### READ

Please read 1 & 2 Timothy as you begin your quiet time.

### REFLECT

Timothy was a preacher, evangelist or minister. These three terms were used interchangeably to describe a man who was assigned to proclaim the Word of God to others. We have ministers in the church today. Their responsibilities are to proclaim God's Word (2 Tim. 4:2), edify the church (1 Tim. 5:17), appoint elders (Titus 1:5-9), defend the faith (1 Tim. 1:3) and evangelize (2 Tim. 4:5). These men are not "Pastors" as denominations mistakenly use the term. They are ministers.

A pastor is from the Greek word *Poimen*. It is also translated as shepherd. There are three Greek words from which we derive six English words describing the same persons. They are:

- *Poimen* – pastor or shepherd
- *Episkopos* – bishop or overseer
- *Presbuteros* – presbyter or elder

Elders are the men charged with shepherding the local congregation. Their qualifications are mentioned in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Deacons are also described in the 1 Timothy passage. They are men entrusted with works of service for the good of the church. Together they make up the structure of leadership God intended for God's flock. So don't call the preacher at your congregation "Pastor." He's not a pastor.



# Day 44

## TITUS, PHILEMON

### REVIEW

You have seen Titus' name mentioned several times already in your studies. He was the Gentile that the Jews wanted to have circumcised in Jerusalem, but Paul would not permit it (Galatians 2:1-5). He was the one eager to help the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:15 and 8:17).

### READ

Paul writes to explain why he had Titus stay in Crete. Go ahead and read Titus at this time.

### REFLECT

Philemon is another of Paul's letter recorded in the New Testament, but not the last letter he wrote chronologically. (That honor belongs to 2 Timothy.) Philemon was written in 60 A.D. regarding a slave by the name of Onesimus who ran away from Philemon. Paul explains how the situation ought to be handled. Please read the letter of Philemon.

Tomorrow's reading is the book of Hebrews. Since it is quite long, you may want to read the first five chapters today and finish the rest tomorrow. Or you can try reading all of it tomorrow. Do it whichever way you are most comfortable with. Hebrews is the only book in the New Testament whose authorship is unknown. Some believe the theology is from Paul, but the writing style is not. Hebrews 2:3 infers that the writer is a second-generation Christian, which would exclude Paul. Regardless of who the author is, the writing is obviously that of a God-inspired man and aligns with what the rest of the New Testament teaches.



# Day 45

## HEBREWS

### READ

Begin where you left off yesterday and read through the end of Hebrews.

### REFLECT

Hebrews was written to Jews who became Christians but were thinking about going back to Judaism. The writer is pleading with them to think seriously about what they are doing. They would be leaving a superior covenant to return to an inferior one. He also warns them of the dangers of falling away (Hebrews 3:7-19; 6:4-6 and 10:26-31). Mark these passages in your Bible and become familiar with what each one teaches. This will prove useful to you when studying with others about the false doctrine known as *Once-Saved-Always-Saved*.

Chapter 11 is the great Hall of Faith. Those listed were commended for stepping out on faith in some way. Do this exercise in your notes. Write "By faith [your name]..." and write out what you have accomplished in your life by faith. Walk by faith today and not by sight.



# Day 46

## JAMES

### REFLECT

A prominent businessman once built a multi-million-dollar corporation from the ground up. He knew his business well and had his company running like a well-oiled machine. One day he announced to his board of directors that he was going to take an extended vacation. You could see the panic in their faces. “Don’t worry,” he assured them. “I am going to send you a letter every month explaining what you should do and how to do it.” True to his word, he faithfully sent the letters to his board of directors, but when he returned from his vacation the company was in utter chaos. He immediately assembled his board and asked them, “What happened? Didn’t you receive the letters I sent you.” “Yes, we received them. We had department meetings to discuss them. Several employees committed portions of your letters to memory. We loved your letters.” “But,” he asked, “did you do what they said?” “Well, no.”

It does not do much good to love God’s Word and study it all the time, if you are not planning to apply what it says to your life.

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” (James 1:21).

James is a great little book. The author was the physical half-brother of Jesus, the son of Joseph and Mary. For your quiet time today, write out your spoken communication from God, the way you learned to do on Day Eight. Write down what God was saying to you as you read the book of James.

Now write out your prayer to God in response to what He spoke to you through this book we call James. Pray about being a doer of the Word and not just a hearer.



# Day 47

## 1 & 2 PETER

### REVIEW

James 5:16 succinctly describes something we should always remember about prayer. *For the righteous man, prayer is powerful and effective.* This is another verse you should have on your heart all day long. Take a moment to commit it to memory as you begin your quiet time today.

### READ

Peter was a fascinating disciple of Jesus. He only wrote two letters that are canonized, belong in the Bible. You will be reading both of them today. His first letter is addressed to the Christians throughout the regions of Asia Minor. The second letter's audience is not mentioned. Listen carefully to the words of this polished veteran of Christian doctrine as you read 1st and 2nd Peter.

### REFLECT

"Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation," (1 Peter 2:2). If there was ever a verse in the Bible you could relate to, this ought to be it. It takes humility to admit you are still a babe in Christ, but you are. And like a babe you should crave the nourishing milk which will help you grow. Hopefully you want your faith to grow. It won't happen by accident. Crave growth. Crave the Word.

A few verses later in this chapter, Peter explained how you are built into a holy priesthood (2:5). All Christians are priests on equal terms with God. The elders, deacons and ministers we talked about a few days ago have important responsibilities, but those in leadership are not any more important in God's eyes than you are. You are part of this priesthood of believers. You have a part in the Lord's church. We are all one in Christ.



# Day 48

## 1, 2 & 3 JOHN, JUDE

### REVIEW

There is nothing else you have to do today that is as important as what you are about to do right now. God has a message for you from first, second and third John. John was the last apostle to die, and one who was so dear to Jesus. His writings contain numerous commands to “love one another.” John seemed to think love was the answer to everything. Looking at the world today, it would seem like he has a good point.

### READ

Please read these three short epistles and see for yourself. Go ahead and read the small book of Jude as well.

### REFLECT

We have already established through scripture that a person can fall away from God’s grace. But does that mean we are always teetering on the edge, right on the verge of being cast into hell? When we sin as Christians, we should humbly repent, confess our sins and turn back to God. But we do not lose our relationship with Christ during this process even for one moment. “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7). If you are making the effort to walk in the light you are safe because of the cleansing blood of Christ. On the other hand, if you choose not to walk in the light, and persist in rejecting His goodness, then you are in danger of eternal condemnation (Hebrews 10:26-31). You will stumble at times, but as long as you repent and stay close to the Lord you have nothing to fear. Your soul is secure.

Jude, like James, was another half-brother of Jesus, Jude 1:1. They did not follow Jesus until later on in His ministry. This is a small but insightful letter which I hope you found beneficial in your reading.



# Day 49

## REVELATION 1-4

### REVIEW

The apostle John was exiled to the Island of Patmos off the coast of Asia Minor because of his preaching. While on Patmos, Jesus appeared to him and revealed a message for the church, which we know as the book of Revelation. The name Revelation comes from a translation of the very first Greek word in the first verse, *apokalypsis*. Apocalyptic language is a language of pictures, used commonly in biblical prophecy and also in non-biblical writings during the first and second centuries. Revelation is one of the first books people want to learn about, though many seem frightened by it. In order for you to understand this book you must know the Old Testament. That is where you learn the keys to unlocking the symbolism used in apocalyptic language. For now, simply get an overview of the book, and glean its most basic messages.

### READ

Begin with Revelation 1-4. You should know that the disciples being written to are undergoing a fierce persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire. In the first verse you will see the purpose of this book is to reveal events which “must soon take place.” Keep this in mind as you are reading.



# Day 50

## REVELATION 5-11

### REVIEW

Numbers are significant in apocalyptic writing. Two is the number for strength. Three is the number for God or divinity. Four represents the world or the universe. Five and ten are the numbers for human completeness. One thousand means absolute completeness ( $10 \times 10 \times 10$ ). Six is man's number, particularly mankind without God. Seven is the number for divine completeness and is the most popular number in Revelation. Three and a half is the number meaning incomplete. (Half of seven. Also stated as 42 months, 1,260 days or times, time and a half a time.) Twelve stands for God at work on earth, the organization of God's people.

### READ

This information will prove helpful today as you read Revelation 5-11.

### REFLECT

One of the elders told John not to weep in 5:5 because "the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome." This is referring to Jesus, the stalwart lion who fearlessly and utterly dominates His spiritual jungle. Jesus is a lion. Yet when John turned to look, he did not see a lion but rather a lamb. So which is Jesus, the lion or the lamb? He is both. Write down the attributes of Christ that make Him like the lion. Then describe how Jesus is also like the lamb.

What you are witnessing in the book of Revelation is the response of God to the prayers of the church (5:8 & 8:3-4). God hears your prayers. You do not ever need to doubt that. Pray to God this morning. He hears you.



# Day 51

## REVELATION 12-17

### REVIEW

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.” (12:11).

### READ

This inspiring message is only a taste of the nourishment you will be receiving today as you read Revelation 12-17. You can overcome the dragon (Satan) through the blood of Christ and the testimony of the saints (Christians). This is spiritual warfare at its finest and you are in the winning army.

### REFLECT

There are seven “Beatitudes” in the book of Revelation, (blessings given in return for certain behaviors). You can recognize them because they start off “blessed is...” or “blessed are...” The first one is in 1:3. Can you find the other six?

Tomorrow you will be reading one of the most misunderstood chapters in the Bible, Revelation 20. Some religions teach that Revelation 20 is describing Jesus coming to the earth to establish His kingdom sometime in the future. This doctrine is called Millennialism and it goes against what the Bible teaches. Jesus established His kingdom while He was on earth the first time. His kingdom on earth is His church and it was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. So what is Revelation 20 actually teaching? The beast stands for the Roman Emperor. Those who refused to worship the beast reigned with Christ absolutely (the meaning of 1,000 years). So basically, the bad guys lose, and the good guys win BIG TIME!



# Day 52

## REVELATION 18-22

### REVIEW

Revelation does not have an “s” on the end of it. There is no book in the Bible called Revelations. Many people mispronounce it. If you have been mispronouncing it, I hope you will change and start pronouncing it Revelation. The reason that is important is because you’re not reading multiple revelations. This whole book is one single revelation. So the question you need to answer is, “what is it revealing?”

### READ

You will never guess what your reading is for today. Go ahead. Try to guess. Can’t figure it out, can you? Oh, all right. I’ll tell you. It’s Revelation 18-22. What? You already knew that? No way!

### REFLECT

In the end, Satan and anyone who follows Satan’s example will be punished for their evil. In the end, even though you may suffer persecutions and hardships on earth, you will receive an eternal reward.

The book of Revelation describes heaven, the eternal dwelling place of God, the place we will be after this life is over. As your last assignment in your notes, write down what you believe heaven will be like, based on scripture. What does heaven hold that you are most looking forward to?





## WHAT IS NEXT?

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Now that you have finished your 52 Days, take a moment to thank God for His wonderful Word and the rich blessing you have received from it. Next, call your discipling partner. Let him or her know that you have completed *My First 52 Days in Christ* and that you appreciate their help and guidance. Hopefully this “Iron-sharpens-iron” relationship will keep going as you encourage each other to grow spiritually.

Tomorrow begin reading the Old Testament. Figure out how many pages you would like to cover per day and set a steady pace for yourself. There is a suggested quiet time schedule for the Old Testament on the next page if you would like to use that one.

Remember to change things up once in a while to keep your quiet time fresh and interesting. Continue your daily prayer and reaching out to the lost. Be faithful in your church attendance and encourage others. Most of all, grow in your love for God. You are His child. Let Him raise you up into the great man or woman of God He wants you to be. May God be with you on your faith journey.

# MY NEXT 153 DAYS

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This study guides you through the Old Testament in 153 days reading an average of 6 chapters a day.

DAY	CHAPTERS	DAY	CHAPTERS
1.	Gen 1-5	40.	Jdg 6-10
2.	Gen 6-13	41.	Jdg 11-16
3.	Gen 14-19	42.	Jdg 17-21
4.	Gen 20-25	43.	Ruth
5.	Gen 26-30	44.	1Sa 1-7
6.	Gen 31-35	45.	1Sa 8-14
7.	Gen 36-40	46.	1Sa 15-17
8.	Gen 41-45	47.	1Sa 18-24
9.	Gen 46-50	48.	1Sa 25-31
10.	Exo 1-6	49.	2Sa 1-6
11.	Exo 7-13	50.	2Sa 7-12
12.	Exo 14-19	51.	2Sa 13-16
13.	Exo 20-25	52.	2Sa 17-20
14.	Exo 26-30	53.	2Sa 21-24
15.	Exo 31-36	54.	1Kg 1-4
16.	Exo 37-40	55.	1Kg 5-8
17.	Lev 1-7	56.	1Kg 9-13
18.	Lev 8-13	57.	1Kg 14-18
19.	Lev 14-18	58.	1Kg 19-22
20.	Lev 19-23	59.	2Kg 1-5
21.	Lev 24-27	60.	2Kg 6-10
22.	Num 1-5	61.	2Kg 11-16
23.	Num 6-10	62.	2Kg 17-20
24.	Num 11-15	63.	2Kg 21-25
25.	Num 16-20	64.	1Ch 1-5
26.	Num 21-25	65.	1Ch 6-10
27.	Num 26-31	66.	1Ch 11-16
28.	Num 32-36	67.	1Ch 17-23
29.	Deu 1-4	68.	1Ch 24-29
30.	Deu 5-10	69.	2Ch 1-5
31.	Deu 11-17	70.	2Ch 6-10
32.	Deu 18-24	71.	2Ch 11-17
33.	Deu 25-30	72.	2Ch 18-23
34.	Deu 31-34	73.	2Ch 24-28
35.	Jsh 1-6	74.	2Ch 29-32
36.	Jsh 7-12	75.	2Ch 33-36
37.	Jsh 13-18	76.	Ezr 1-6
38.	Jsh 19-24	77.	Ezr 7-10
39.	Jdg 1-5	78.	Neh 1-8

<b>DAY</b>	<b>CHAPTERS</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>CHAPTERS</b>
79.	Neh 9-13	117.	Isa 43-47
80.	Est 1-5	118.	Isa 48-52
81.	Est 6-10	119.	Isa 53-60
82.	Job 1-9	120.	Isa 61-66
83.	Job 10-17	121.	Jer 1-4
84.	Job 18-26	122.	Jer 5-8
85.	Job 27-34	123.	Jer 9-13
86.	Job 35-42	124.	Jer 14-19
87.	Psa 1-11	125.	Jer 20-24
88.	Psa 12-22	126.	Jer 25-30
89.	Psa 23-33	127.	Jer 31-34
90.	Psa 34-41	128.	Jer 35-41
91.	Psa 42-51	129.	Jer 42-47
92.	Psa 52-64	130.	Jer 48-50
93.	Psa 65-72	131.	Jer 51-52
94.	Psa 73-78	132.	Lam
95.	Psa 79-89	133.	Ezk 1-8
96.	Psa 90-102	134.	Ezk 9-16
97.	Psa 103-106	135.	Ezk 17-21
98.	Psa 107-118	136.	Ezk 22-26
99.	Psa 119	137.	Ezk 27-31
100.	Psa 120-138	138.	Ezk 32-37
101.	Psa 139-150	139.	Ezk 38-43
102.	Pro 1-7	140.	Ezk 44-48
103.	Pro 8-13	141.	Dan 1-4
104.	Pro 14-19	142.	Dan 5-8
105.	Pro 20-25	143.	Dan 9-12
106.	Pro 26-31	144.	Hos 1-7
107.	Ecc 1-6	145.	Hos 8-14
108.	Ecc 7-12	146.	Joel
109.	S of Songs	147.	Amos
110.	Isa 1-6	148.	Oba-Jnh
111.	Isa 7-12	149.	Micah
112.	Isa 13-19	150.	Nah-Hab
113.	Isa 20-26	151.	Zep-Hag
114.	Isa 27-31	152.	Zec
115.	Isa 32-37	153.	Mal
116.	Isa 38-42		

Now that you have read the Old Testament, read the New Testament once again, taking a closer look.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Curtis Hartshorn has been ministering with the Church of Christ in Checotah, Oklahoma since February of 2012. He works primarily in preaching, teaching and leading evangelistic Bible studies. Before Oklahoma, he preached for 25 years in Colorado. He has taught college level courses on Principles of Marriage and Death and Dying. He served as a sheriff's department chaplain, providing Biblical Counseling for both inmates and jail staff, and has written various Christian education materials, including three other books besides this one: **Reaching New Levels of Faith**, **The Essence of Revelation** and **From Atheist to Preacher**.

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Brother Hartshorn holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Biblical Studies from Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver with an emphasis in Biblical Counseling. He is the Director of Church Relations for BibleTalk.tv. He and his lovely wife Kathy have three children and three grandchildren.