

Bible Reading FAQ's

Why are we doing this?

The purpose of a Read Through the Bible in a Year plan is (1) for you to develop the habit of reading your Bible every single day, and (2) to give you an overview of the grand themes of scripture. This is not an in-depth study, and you will probably not understand everything you read... this project is to help you develop the habit, and to give you the big picture.

How much time is this going to take?

You will generally be reading 4 chapters per day, which should take about 15 minutes.

What version of the Bible should I read?

Our staff favorite for a project like this is the NIV Student (or Study) Bible because it has just enough information on each book (summary, history, outline) to give you a framework and it's easy to read. Most other versions are fine for reading, but we would not recommend The Message or the old KJV.

Can I use an electronic version of the Bible?

Of course! The You Version Bible app is a favorite, and several versions give you the option of having the text read aloud to you (useful for walkers and commuters!). We still prefer a paper Bible for marking passages, and it's less distracting in the early morning, but do whatever works for you.

How should I keep track of my progress?

You can check off each days reading on the reading plan if you print it out. Or you can check off each chapter on a Bible Chapter Checklist.

Should I take notes?

Tricky question - usually we encourage journaling, however, you will be reading so many chapters a day that journaling might require your reading time to be an hour! You might try these ideas instead: In a notebook or journal write a 1 line summary of each chapter (main character, main event). Or, use the margin space at the top

of each page in your Bible to write a 2-3 word summary of events on that page. Yes, write in your Bible! Use colored pencils, they won't bleed through the page.

What about the things I don't understand?

We recommend you make a note of that chapter (in your journal, on a notepad, etc.) and just keep reading. Later you can ask a leader about that section, or read about it in a commentary, or just decide to let it go and focus on the big picture. There will always be passages you do not understand, when you have time you can study them in more depth... don't let them keep you from reading on.

What if I fall behind on my readings?

Don't get discouraged! The Bible is not read in a day! The best idea would be to set aside some time and read to catch up. Or you can skip the parts you missed (easier in some books than others), or you can pick up reading again when the reading plan starts a new book. We all miss days, you just have to make it up or make peace with yourself that it's going to be less than perfect!

Is LHUMC going to publish a study guide each week?

No. We want you to read, discover, and let God talk to you through His Word. We don't want to tell you what the main point is each week, we want you to interact with God. Each reader will discover his own new thoughts, and God may be speaking to each of you differently.

How can I interact with others?

Each week there will be a LHUMC Facebook posting with the readings for the week and some additional thoughts/resources from the staff. You'll be able to interact with the page. Another option for accountability and discussion is to join a Bible Reading Group (please note groups are discussion-based not specific teaching).

Can you recommend a commentary?

We're not sure you'll have enough time to read a commentary, and the NIV Student Bible will give you enough background for a big picture framework. Otherwise you could do extra research with www.biblegateway.com, www.blueletterbible.org, or the Walvord and Zuck "Bible Knowledge Commentary" 1 volume Old Testament, 1 volume New Testament.