



Reading God's Word Together

This could change your life!

If you want to learn more about God, become more like Jesus, and hear His Holy Spirit speak to you more often, the best thing you can do is read the Bible. This is a guide to help you do this on a daily basis in 2021.

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

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

Get set

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

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

- The first year (2019) started with the beginning of everything, God choosing a family to be His miraculous people of hope for the world, and them becoming a kingdom.
- Year two (2020) was about what happened to that kingdom: its successes under David and Solomon followed by its division and eventual exile from the land as punishment for its rebellion against God. We also read the wisdom literature it produced, and the prophets who spoke during this time.
- In year three (2021) the story of the kingdom will be reiterated along with what happened during the exile and how God brought His people back into the promised land. Along with the narratives, there are prophetic books from this era too.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get started

When the time comes to read God's word, first turn away from all other distractions and give God your full attention!

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

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

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

- What does this tell me about God: His qualities, His character, His actions then and now?
- How shall I respond to what I've read: praise, repent, give thanks, tell others, pray, make a change in my life?

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

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

Here are some things you can do when this happens:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.
- Speak to a Christian friend or church leader.
- Use the tools provided in a study Bible.
- Watch the short introductory videos to the book or section you're reading at bibleproject.com/explore. We've marked with an asterisk the chapters where an overview video begins.
- Visit our website kingschurchedinburgh.org/Bible for resources to help you when you're struggling to understand the Bible and when you're struggling to believe it.
- The more you read the Bible, the more you will learn about God, and the more you will see His big story and learn the plotlines and themes in it. This will help you to understand what's happening in the daily passages you're reading. It can only happen over time, so keep persevering.

Get connected

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

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

We're also intending to publish regular videos talking about the current readings: what they show us about God and also common challenges they present. If you've got a question you'd like answered, email luke@kingschurchedinburgh.org and it may be mentioned.

You can subscribe to this reading plan as an online calendar, and get reminders, reflections, and inspiration from our Reading God's Word Together social media accounts. Links to all these things can be found at kingschurchedinburgh.org/resources/reading-gods-word-together/

Here are the abbreviations we have used for some of the books in this year's plan:

- 1 & 2 Chron = 1 & 2 Chronicles
- Col = Colossians
- 1 & 2 Cor = 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Dan = Daniel
- Eph = Ephesians
- Est = Esther
- Eze = Ezekiel
- Gal = Galatians
- Hag = Haggai
- Heb = Hebrews
- Jam = James
- Jer = Jeremiah
- Lam = Lamentations
- Mal = Malachi
- Matt = Matthew
- Neh = Nehemiah
- 1 & 2 Pet = 1 & 2 Peter
- Phi = Philemon
- Phil = Philippians
- Ps = Psalms
- Rev = Revelation
- Rom = Romans
- 1 & 2 Thess = 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- 1 & 2 Tim = 1 & 2 Timothy
- Zec = Zechariah

January

	OT	NT
<u>Fri 1st</u>	Ps 1 *	Luke 1 *
Sat 2nd	Ps 2	
Sun 3rd	Ps 3	
Mon 4th	Ps 4	Luke 2
Tue 5th	Ps 5	Luke 3
Wed 6th	Ps 6	Luke 4
Thu 7th	Ps 7	Luke 5
Fri 8th	Ps 8	Luke 6
Sat 9th	Ps 9	
Sun 10th	Ps 10	
<u>Mon 11th</u>	1 Chron 1-3 *	Luke 7
Tue 12th	1 Chron 4-6	Luke 8
Wed 13th	1 Chron 7-9	Luke 9
Thu 14th	1 Chron 10	Luke 10 *
Fri 15th	1 Chron 11	Luke 11
Sat 16th	Ps 11	
Sun 17th	Ps 12	
Mon 18th	1 Chron 12	Luke 12
Tue 19th	1 Chron 13	Luke 13
Wed 20th	1 Chron 14	Luke 14
Thu 21st	1 Chron 15	Luke 15
Fri 22nd	1 Chron 16	Luke 16
Sat 23rd	Ps 13	
Sun 24th	Ps 14	
Mon 25th	1 Chron 17	Luke 17
Tue 26th	1 Chron 18	Luke 18
Wed 27th	1 Chron 19	Luke 19
Thu 28th	1 Chron 20	Luke 20
Fri 29th	1 Chron 21	Luke 21
Sat 30th	Ps 15	
Sun 31st	Ps 16	

February

	OT	NT
Mon 1st	1 Chron 22-23	Luke 22
Tue 2nd	1 Chron 24-25	Luke 23
Wed 3rd	1 Chron 26-27	Luke 24
<u>Thu 4th</u>	1 Chron 28-29	Acts 1 *
Fri 5th	2 Chron 1	Acts 2
Sat 6th	Ps 17	
Sun 7th	Ps 18	
Mon 8th	2 Chron 2	Acts 3
Tue 9th	2 Chron 3	Acts 4
Wed 10th	2 Chron 4	Acts 5
Thu 11th	2 Chron 5	Acts 6
Fri 12th	2 Chron 6	Acts 7
Sat 13th	Ps 19	
Sun 14th	Ps 20	
Mon 15th	2 Chron 7	Acts 8
Tue 16th	2 Chron 8	Acts 9
Wed 17th	2 Chron 9	Acts 10
Thu 18th	2 Chron 10	Acts 11
Fri 19th	2 Chron 11	Acts 12
Sat 20th	Ps 21	
Sun 21st	Ps 22	
Mon 22nd	2 Chron 12	Acts 13 *
Tue 23rd	2 Chron 13	Acts 14
Wed 24th	2 Chron 14	Acts 15
Thu 25th	2 Chron 15	Acts 16
Fri 26th	2 Chron 16	Acts 17
Sat 27th	Ps 23	
Sun 28th	Ps 24	

March

	OT	NT
Mon 1st	2 Chron 17	Acts 18
Tue 2nd	2 Chron 18	Acts 19
Wed 3rd	2 Chron 19	Acts 20
Thu 4th	2 Chron 20	Acts 21
Fri 5th	2 Chron 21	Acts 22
Sat 6th	Ps 25	
Sun 7th	Ps 26	
Mon 8th	2 Chron 22	Acts 23
Tue 9th	2 Chron 23	Acts 24
Wed 10th	2 Chron 24	Acts 25
Thu 11th	2 Chron 25	Acts 26
Fri 12th	2 Chron 26	Acts 27
Sat 13th	Ps 27	
Sun 14th	Ps 28	
Mon 15th	2 Chron 27	Acts 28
<u>Tue 16th</u>	2 Chron 28	1 Thess 1 *
Wed 17th	2 Chron 29	1 Thess 2
Thu 18th	2 Chron 30	1 Thess 3
Fri 19th	2 Chron 31	1 Thess 4
Sat 20th	Ps 29	
Sun 21st	Ps 30	
Mon 22nd	2 Chron 32	1 Thess 5
<u>Tue 23rd</u>	2 Chron 33	2 Thess 1 *
Wed 24th	2 Chron 34	2 Thess 2
Thu 25th	2 Chron 35	2 Thess 3
<u>Fri 26th</u>	2 Chron 36	1 Cor 1 *
Sat 27th	Ps 31	
Sun 28th	Ps 32	
Mon 29th	Ps 33	1 Cor 2
Tue 30th	Ps 34	1 Cor 3
Wed 31st	Ps 35	1 Cor 4

* See bibleproject.com/explore

April

	OT	NT
Thu 1st	Ps 36	1 Cor 5
Fri 2nd	Ps 37	1 Cor 6
Sat 3rd	Ps 38	
Sun 4th	Ps 39	
Mon 5th	Ps 40	1 Cor 7
Tue 6th	Ps 41	1 Cor 8
Wed 7th	Ps 42	1 Cor 9
Thu 8th	Ps 43	1 Cor 10
Fri 9th	Ps 44	1 Cor 11
Sat 10th	Ps 45	
Sun 11th	Ps 46	
<u>Mon 12th</u>	Jer 1 *	1 Cor 12
Tue 13th	Jer 2	1 Cor 13
Wed 14th	Jer 3	1 Cor 14
Thu 15th	Jer 4	1 Cor 15
Fri 16th	Jer 5	1 Cor 16
Sat 17th	Ps 47	
Sun 18th	Ps 48	
<u>Mon 19th</u>	Jer 6	2 Cor 1 *
Tue 20th	Jer 7	2 Cor 2
Wed 21st	Jer 8-9	2 Cor 3
Thu 22nd	Jer 10-11	2 Cor 4
Fri 23rd	Jer 12-13	2 Cor 5
Sat 24th	Ps 49	
Sun 25th	Ps 50	
Mon 26th	Jer 14-15	2 Cor 6
Tue 27th	Jer 16-17	2 Cor 7
Wed 28th	Jer 18-19	2 Cor 8
Thu 29th	Jer 20-21	2 Cor 9
Fri 30th	Jer 22-23	2 Cor 10

May

	OT	NT
Sat 1st	Ps 51	
Sun 2nd	Ps 52	
Mon 3rd	Jer 24-25	2 Cor 11
Tue 4th	Jer 26	2 Cor 12
Wed 5th	Jer 27	2 Cor 13
<u>Thu 6th</u>	Jer 28	Gal 1 *
Fri 7th	Jer 29	Gal 2
Sat 8th	Ps 53	
Sun 9th	Ps 54	
Mon 10th	Jer 30	Gal 3
Tue 11th	Jer 31	Gal 4
Wed 12th	Jer 32	Gal 5
Thu 13th	Jer 33	Gal 6
<u>Fri 14th</u>	Jer 34	Rom 1 *
Sat 15th	Ps 55	
Sun 16th	Ps 56	
Mon 17th	Jer 35	Rom 2
Tue 18th	Jer 36	Rom 3
Wed 19th	Jer 37	Rom 4
Thu 20th	Jer 38	Rom 5 *
Fri 21st	Jer 39	Rom 6
Sat 22nd	Ps 57	
Sun 23rd	Ps 58	
Mon 24th	Jer 40	Rom 7
Tue 25th	Jer 41	Rom 8
Wed 26th	Jer 42	Rom 9
Thu 27th	Jer 43	Rom 10
Fri 28th	Jer 44	Rom 11
Sat 29th	Ps 59	
Sun 30th	Ps 60	
Mon 31st	Jer 45	Rom 12

June

	OT	NT
Tue 1st	Jer 46	Rom 13
Wed 2nd	Jer 47	Rom 14
Thu 3rd	Jer 48	Rom 15
Fri 4th	Jer 49	Rom 16
Sat 5th	Ps 61	
Sun 6th	Ps 62	
<u>Mon 7th</u>	Jer 50	Col 1 *
Tue 8th	Jer 51	Col 2
Wed 9th	Jer 52	Col 3
Thu 10th	Ps 63	Col 4
<u>Fri 11th</u>	Ps 64	Eph 1 *
Sat 12th	Ps 65	
Sun 13th	Ps 66	
Mon 14th	Ps 67	Eph 2
Tue 15th	Ps 68	Eph 3
Wed 16th	Ps 69	Eph 4
Thu 17th	Ps 70	Eph 5
Fri 18th	Ps 71	Eph 6
Sat 19th	Ps 72	
Sun 20th	Ps 73	
<u>Mon 21st</u>	Lam 1 *	Phi *
<u>Tue 22nd</u>	Lam 2	Phil 1 *
Wed 23rd	Lam 3	Phil 2
Thu 24th	Lam 4	Phil 3
Fri 25th	Lam 5	Phil 4
Sat 26th	Ps 74	
Sun 27th	Ps 75	
<u>Mon 28th</u>	Ps 76	1 Tim 1 *
Tue 29th	Ps 77	1 Tim 2
Wed 30th	Ps 78	1 Tim 3

July

	OT	NT
Thu 1st	Ps 79	1 Tim 4
Fri 2nd	Ps 80	1 Tim 5
Sat 3rd	Ps 81	
Sun 4th	Ps 82	
<u>Mon 5th</u>	Eze 1 *	1 Tim 6
<u>Tue 6th</u>	Eze 2	Titus 1 *
Wed 7th	Eze 3	Titus 2
Thu 8th	Eze 4	Titus 3
<u>Fri 9th</u>	Eze 5	2 Tim 1 *
Sat 10th	Ps 83	
Sun 11th	Ps 84	
Mon 12th	Eze 6	2 Tim 2
Tue 13th	Eze 7	2 Tim 3
Wed 14th	Eze 8	2 Tim 4
<u>Thu 15th</u>	Eze 9	Matt 1 *
Fri 16th	Eze 10	Matt 2
Sat 17th	Ps 85	
Sun 18th	Ps 86	
Mon 19th	Eze 11	Matt 3
Tue 20th	Eze 12	Matt 4
Wed 21st	Eze 13	Matt 5
Thu 22nd	Eze 14	Matt 6
Fri 23rd	Eze 15	Matt 7
Sat 24th	Ps 87	
Sun 25th	Ps 88	
Mon 26th	Eze 16	Matt 8
Tue 27th	Eze 17	Matt 9
Wed 28th	Eze 18	Matt 10
Thu 29th	Eze 19	Matt 11
Fri 30th	Eze 20	Matt 12
Sat 31st	Ps 89	

August

	OT	NT
Sun 1st	Ps 90	
Mon 2nd	Eze 21	Matt 13
Tue 3rd	Eze 22	Matt 14 *
Wed 4th	Eze 23	Matt 15
Thu 5th	Eze 24	Matt 16
Fri 6th	Eze 25-26	Matt 17
Sat 7th	Ps 91	
Sun 8th	Ps 92	
Mon 9th	Eze 27-28	Matt 18
Tue 10th	Eze 29-30	Matt 19
Wed 11th	Eze 31-32	Matt 20
Thu 12th	Eze 33	Matt 21
Fri 13th	Eze 34 *	Matt 22
Sat 14th	Ps 93	
Sun 15th	Ps 94	
Mon 16th	Eze 35	Matt 23
Tue 17th	Eze 36	Matt 24
Wed 18th	Eze 37	Matt 25
Thu 19th	Eze 38	Matt 26
Fri 20th	Eze 39	Matt 27
Sat 21st	Ps 95	
Sun 22nd	Ps 96	
Mon 23rd	Eze 40	Matt 28
<u>Tue 24th</u>	Eze 41	Heb 1 *
Wed 25th	Eze 42	Heb 2
Thu 26th	Eze 43	Heb 3
Fri 27th	Eze 44	Heb 4
Sat 28th	Ps 97	
Sun 29th	Ps 98	
Mon 30th	Eze 45	Heb 5
Tue 31st	Eze 46	Heb 6

September

	OT	NT
Wed 1st	Eze 47	Heb 7
Thu 2nd	Eze 48	Heb 8
Fri 3rd	Ps 99	Heb 9
Sat 4th	Ps 100	
Sun 5th	Ps 101	
Mon 6th	Ps 102	Heb 10
Tue 7th	Ps 103	Heb 11
Wed 8th	Ps 104	Heb 12
Thu 9th	Ps 105	Heb 13
<u>Fri 10th</u>	Ps 106	Jam 1 *
Sat 11th	Ps 107	
Sun 12th	Ps 108	
<u>Mon 13th</u>	Dan 1 *	Jam 2
Tue 14th	Dan 2	Jam 3
Wed 15th	Dan 3	Jam 4
Thu 16th	Dan 4	Jam 5
<u>Fri 17th</u>	Dan 5	Mark 1 *
Sat 18th	Ps 109	
Sun 19th	Ps 110	
Mon 20th	Dan 6	Mark 2
Tue 21st	Dan 7	Mark 3
Wed 22nd	Dan 8	Mark 4
Thu 23rd	Dan 9	Mark 5
Fri 24th	Dan 10	Mark 6
Sat 25th	Ps 111	
Sun 26th	Ps 112	
Mon 27th	Dan 11	Mark 7
Tue 28th	Dan 12	Mark 8
Wed 29th	Ps 113	Mark 9
Thu 30th	Ps 114	Mark 10

* See bibleproject.com/explore

October

	OT	NT
Fri 1st	Ps 115	Mark 11
Sat 2nd	Ps 116	
Sun 3rd	Ps 117	
<u>Mon 4th</u>	Est 1 *	Mark 12
Tue 5th	Est 2	Mark 13
Wed 6th	Est 3	Mark 14
Thu 7th	Est 4	Mark 15
Fri 8th	Est 5	Mark 16
Sat 9th	Ps 118	
Sun 10th	Ps 119:1-32	
<u>Mon 11th</u>	Est 6	1 Pet 1 *
Tue 12th	Est 7	1 Pet 2
Wed 13th	Est 8	1 Pet 3
Thu 14th	Est 9	1 Pet 4
Fri 15th	Est 10	1 Pet 5
Sat 16th	Ps 119:33-72	
Sun 17th	Ps 119:73-104	
<u>Mon 18th</u>	Ps 119:105-144	2 Pet 1 *
Tue 19th	Ps 119:144-176	2 Pet 2
Wed 20th	Ps 120	2 Pet 3
<u>Thu 21st</u>	Ps 121	Jude *
<u>Fri 22nd</u>	Ps 122	John 1 *
Sat 23rd	Ps 123	
Sun 24th	Ps 124	
<u>Mon 25th</u>	Ezra 1 *	John 2
Tue 26th	Ezra 2	John 3
Wed 27th	Ezra 3	John 4
Thu 28th	Ezra 4	John 5
Fri 29th	Ezra 5	John 6
Sat 30th	Ps 125	
Sun 31st	Ps 126	

November

	OT	NT
Mon 1st	Ezra 6	John 7
Tue 2nd	Ezra 7	John 8
Wed 3rd	Ezra 8	John 9
Thu 4th	Ezra 9	John 10
Fri 5th	Ezra 10	John 11
Sat 6th	Ps 127	
Sun 7th	Ps 128	
<u>Mon 8th</u>	Hag 1 *	John 12
Tue 9th	Hag 2	John 13 *
Wed 10th	Ps 129	John 14
Thu 11th	Ps 130	John 15
Fri 12th	Ps 131	John 16
Sat 13th	Ps 132	
Sun 14th	Ps 133	
<u>Mon 15th</u>	Zec 1 *	John 17
Tue 16th	Zec 2	John 18
Wed 17th	Zec 3	John 19
Thu 18th	Zec 4	John 20
Fri 19th	Zec 5	John 21
Sat 20th	Ps 134	
Sun 21st	Ps 135	
<u>Mon 22nd</u>	Zec 6	1 John 1 *
Tue 23rd	Zec 7	1 John 2
Wed 24th	Zec 8	1 John 3
Thu 25th	Zec 9	1 John 4
Fri 26th	Zec 10	1 John 5
Sat 27th	Ps 136	
Sun 28th	Ps 137	
<u>Mon 29th</u>	Zec 11	2 John *
<u>Tue 30th</u>	Zec 12	3 John *

December

	OT	NT
<u>Wed 1st</u>	Zec 13	Rev 1 *
Thu 2nd	Zec 14	Rev 2
Fri 3rd	Ps 138	Rev 3
Sat 4th	Ps 139	
Sun 5th	Ps 140	
<u>Mon 6th</u>	Neh 1	Rev 4
Tue 7th	Neh 2	Rev 5
Wed 8th	Neh 3	Rev 6
Thu 9th	Neh 4	Rev 7
Fri 10th	Neh 5	Rev 8
Sat 11th	Ps 141	
Sun 12th	Ps 142	
Mon 13th	Neh 6	Rev 9
Tue 14th	Neh 7	Rev 10
Wed 15th	Neh 8	Rev 11
Thu 16th	Neh 9-10	Rev 12 *
Fri 17th	Neh 11-12	Rev 13
Sat 18th	Ps 143	
Sun 19th	Ps 144	
Mon 20th	Neh 13	Rev 14
<u>Tue 21st</u>	Mal 1 *	Rev 15
Wed 22nd	Mal 2	Rev 16
Thu 23rd	Mal 3	Rev 17
Fri 24th	Mal 4	Rev 18
Sat 25th	Ps 145	
Sun 26th	Ps 146	
Mon 27th	Ps 147	Rev 19
Tue 28th	Ps 148	Rev 20
Wed 29th	Ps 149	Rev 21
Thu 30th	Ps 150	Rev 22
Fri 31st		

* See bibleproject.com/explore