



"Next Generation Scripture Engagement - the South Asian Experience"

Welcome to the "Next Generation Scripture Engagement - the South Asian Experience" Bible Reading Plan! Those involved in planning the Colombo program desire that we prepare our hearts and minds for this time by spending the next 30 days interacting personally with the Word of God, in anticipation of doing it in community when we're together. As we read together God's Word, our hope is that the Holy Spirit will prepare us to be challenged and changed by the Colombo event – so we may become more like Christ through his Word.

The Bible Reading Plan focuses on what the Bible says about God's Word. God's Word is a major theme from Genesis to Revelation and will be the focus of our time together in Sri Lanka. Each morning while in Colombo we will spend an hour as a community in Bible engagement – learning about what it is and engaging with Psalm 1 around tables together. The Bible Reading Plan will help us all prepare for our time together each morning during the conference.

We would like to encourage each of you to take time to read the passages we are providing each day, and let the Holy Spirit help us to reflect on what God is saying. There is no rush. Listen to what the passage says with an open heart and mind.

When we engage with the Bible, we are engaging with God.

Come, let's meet God in his Word!

Bible Engagement Planning Team

Day One - What do we mean when we say the Bible is the Word of God?

The primary means that God speaks to his people is through the Bible. The stories, poems, prophecies and commands are the tools that he uses to meet us and form us into his people. The Scriptures are God's words given directly to us. The Bible is God speaking to us. Won't you come and listen to your Lord and Savior?

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

John 16:12-15

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Day Two - How do we come to the Word of God?

As God's Word, the Bible is to be engaged in a special way. It isn't just a "happy thought for the day" or "rules to be memorized," something we read to earn God's favor, or a means to get the things we want. Scripture engagement is about meeting God. It is a relational process. When you come to Scriptures, are you meditating on them, letting them be on your heart, talking about them, letting them be planted in your life, looking at them intently, and retaining them? In short, when you read the Word of God, are you letting the Scriptures dwell in you? Talk to God about how you have been handling his Word. Below are a number of passages that teach us how we are to come to Scripture.

"Scripture engagement is interaction with the biblical text in a way that provides sufficient opportunity for the text to speak for itself by the power of the Holy Spirit, enabling readers and listeners to hear the voice of God and discover for themselves the unique claim Jesus Christ is making upon them."

Dr. Fergus Macdonald, Taylor University Center for Scripture Engagement



Joshua 1:7-8

7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

2 Timothy 2:7

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

James 1:21-25

21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.

Luke 8: 15

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Colossians 3:16-17

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.



Day Three - How do we come to the Word of God? (continued from yesterday)

Today we are looking at a few more passages about how we are to come to the Bible. When you come to God's Word, take the time necessary to examine it, to listen and hear it, to hide it in your heart, to ponder it, to hold it firmly, to consider it and to "eat" it. As you deeply reflect on the Scriptures, God will use them in your life to help you to know him and obey him with more depth each day.

"Bible engagement is the process whereby people are connected with the Bible such that they have meaningful encounters with Jesus Christ and their lives are progressively transformed in Him."

Dr. Lawson Murray, President Scripture Union Canada

Deuteronomy 17:18-19

18 When he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he must make himself a copy of the law I'm teaching you. He must write it on a scroll. He must copy it from the scroll of a priest, who is a Levite. 19 The king must keep the scroll close to him at all times. He must read it all the days of his life. Then he can learn to have respect for the Lord his God. He can carefully follow all of the words of that law and those rules.

Acts 17:11

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Jeremiah 23:18

But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see or to hear his word?
Who has listened and heard his word?

Psalms 119:11, 95

11 I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
95 ...but I will ponder your statutes.

1 Corinthians 15:2

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.



Jeremiah 2:4, 31b

4 Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob,
all you clans of Israel.

31 "You of this generation, consider the word of the LORD:

Jeremiah 15:16

When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.
(Also Ezek. 3:1-3 and Rev. 10:9-11)

Day Four – What is the Word of God like?

God knows that for us to understand something we often have to relate a new idea to an old idea. The Bible describes itself using a number of metaphors. Those metaphors help us to understand Scriptures in a new way. God's Word is a seed, a light, food (have you been starving yourself of God's nourishment – spiritual anorexia?), a foundation, a fire, a hammer, a helmet and a sword.

"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me."
Martin Luther

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

James 1:21

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Ps 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14



But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Ephesians 2:20-22

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Jeremiah 23:29

"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" "

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Day Five – Qualities of God's Word

The Bible has many different qualities. For the next three days we will look at a few of them. Today we see that Jesus is the living Word of God, that the Word gives joy and light, that the Word is eternal, precious and sweet. Which of these "qualities" of God's Word makes the most impression on you? Why do you think that quality is so important to you?

"The more you read the Bible, and the more you meditate on it, the more you will be astonished with it."

Charles Spurgeon

John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



Psalm 19:8

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

Psalm 119:89, 152, 160

89 Your word, Lord, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.
152 Long ago I learned from your statutes
that you established them to last forever.
160 All your words are true;
all your righteous laws are eternal.
God's Word is eternal.

Psalm 19:10

They [the elements of God's Word] are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.
God's Word is precious and sweet.

Day Six – Qualities of God's Word (continued from yesterday)

Today we continue looking at a few more of the qualities of God's Word. We see that God's Word is full of goodness and power and that it is right/righteous. Isn't God's Word amazing? Stop and praise God for his Word.

Scripture engagement is "Facilitating life-changing encounters with God through His Word."
Wycliffe Asia-Pacific & SIL Asia Scripture Engagement Forum

Hebrews 6:4-5

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age



Psalm 29:3-5

- 3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Psalm 19:9

The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

Psalm 119:172

May my tongue sing of your word,
for all your commands are righteous.

Day Seven – Qualities of God's Word (continued from yesterday)

Today we continue looking at a few more of the qualities of God's Word. We will see that God's Word is true, trustworthy, perfect, unshakeable, and reliable. The qualities of God's Word are the qualities of God himself. What have you learned about God from the qualities of his Word that you've read today?

"The Word of Scripture should never stop sounding in your ears and working in you all day long, just like the words of someone you love...Do not ask 'How shall I pass this on.' But 'What does



it say to me?’ Then ponder this Word long in your heart until it has gone right into you and taken possession of you.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Psalm 119:160

All your words are true;
all your righteous laws are eternal.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Colossians 1:5

the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel.

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Samuel 7:28

Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.

Psalm 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

2 Samuel 22:31

“As for God, his way is perfect:
The LORD’s word is flawless;
he shields all who take refuge in him.

Proverbs 30:5

“Every word of God is flawless;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.



Psalm 93:5

Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days.

2 Peter 1:19

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Day Eight – The Persons of the Trinity are distinguished from one another in Scripture according to their role in the divine speech

We can learn more about the mystery of God's three-in-oneness by reading the Scriptures. Some have described the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as being One in essence, but not in function. God's Word can tell us about the different roles of the different members of the Trinity. The Father exerts his lordship through his Word (e.g., the first 2 verses), the Son is the Word spoken (e.g., the second 2 verses), and the Spirit is the powerful breath that drives the Word along to accomplish its purpose (e.g., the third 2 verses).

"Read with a holy attention, arising from the consideration of the majesty of God, and the reverence due to him. This must be done with attention, first, to the words; second, to the sense; and, third, to the divine authority of the Scripture, and the obligation it lays on the conscience for obedience."

Thomas Boston

Psalm 147:4

He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.



John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1 John 1:1-3

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Day Nine – In the Bible, Scriptures are spoken of as if they were God and God is spoken of as if he were the Scriptures

There are a number of New Testament passages that cite Scripture from the Old Testament and God interchangeably. When we engage God's Word, we engage God.

Scripture Engagement is when our lives connect with Scripture and God speaks to us through it. For this to happen, we need to know ourselves, to uncover the questions our hearts and our society are asking. We also need to dwell in the narrative of God's revelation of himself in the past, using our minds as well as our senses to enter into that experience. At this intersection, we listen for the fresh ways Christ is calling to us, knowing that Christ incarnates into every culture in every age in unique ways.

Scripture engagement is a grace of the Holy Spirit—a divine-human encounter. Our part is to want it and to create conditions that favor it: quieting ourselves before God, exposing ourselves to his Word, listening.

FOBAI Scripture Engagement Development Group

**Galatians 3:8**

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

Romans 9:17

For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

Acts 4:24-25

24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

““Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

Galatians 3:16

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

Day Ten – The God who speaks

God is different from all other supposed gods in that he speaks. He answers people through his Word.

“The Bible is a philosophy of freedom. It’s very difficult from the speculations of the upper-caste philosophers and sages in my country, who taught that who suffered in ignorance, poverty and powerlessness did so because of their poor karma in previous lives.”

Vishal Mangalwadi

1 Corinthians 12:2

You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.

Psalms 115:5-7

5 They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.



6 They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.
7 They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

Psalms 135:16

They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.

Habakkuk 2:18

“Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman?
Or an image that teaches lies?
For the one who makes it trusts in his own creation;
he makes idols that cannot speak.

Day Eleven – God’s Word is about Jesus

When we come to the Bible, we are coming to hear about Jesus. We are to read the Scriptures relationally, to know Christ.

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”
St. Jerome

“The Bible is to me the most precious thing in the world just because it tells me the story of Jesus.”
George MacDonald

John 5:39

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me...

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.



John 5:45-47

45 “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. 46 “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

Day Twelve – Where God’s Word is, there is God’s Spirit

In many places in the Bible we see that God’s Word is accompanied by the Spirit and vice versa.

“My suggestion is simple: put away study aids, commentaries, group Bible-study materials; get out a piece of paper and a pen and write down what we learn about God in a passage of Scripture. Just what we learn about the Abba. We read, we meditate, and we pray. In time these parts of spiritual reading can become indistinguishable. When they do become one, we are reading Abba-centrally. There is no substitute for reading the Bible in order to hear from God.”

Scot McKnight

Isaiah 34:16

Look in the scroll of the Lord and read:
None of these will be missing,
not one will lack her mate.
For it is his mouth that has given the order,
and his Spirit will gather them together.

Isaiah 59:21

“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,” says the Lord.

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

**John 16:13**

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Day Thirteen – Hearing God’s Word

The Bible says a lot about people “hearing” God’s Word. Most people throughout history have been oral learners; they learn mostly from hearing stories that others speak to them. Some biblical scholars say the Bible is primarily designed to be heard, not read. Look at the following verses and think about what it means to “hear” God’s Word. Are you listening to God’s Word?

“The Bible is not given to increase our knowledge. The Bible is given to change our lives.”
D.L. Moody

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Amos 8:11

“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.”

Psalms 78:1

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

Ezekiel 3:10

And he said to me, “Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you.

Matthew 7:24

[The Wise and Foolish Builders] “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.



Acts 22:14

“Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Day Fourteen – Speaking God’s Word

Not only are we to hear God’s Word, we are to speak it to others. When we talk about the Bible it not only enhances our own engagement with Scriptures, it also builds up the person we share with. We talk about what we love. Do your words show that you love God’s Word?

“Good things as well as bad, you know, are caught by a kind of infection. If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever?”

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Deuteronomy 30:14

“But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.”

2 Samuel 23:2

“The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.”

Psalms 40:9

“I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.”

**Psalm 119:13**

“With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.”

Psalm 119:43-48

“And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules. I will keep your law continually, forever and ever, and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts. I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.”

Psalm 119:172

“My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.”

Isaiah 59:21

“‘And as for me, this is my covenant with them,’ says the LORD: ‘My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,’ says the LORD, ‘from this time forth and forevermore.’”

Romans 10:8

But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:

Day Fifteen – Singing God’s Word

Much of Scripture is designed to be sung. Singing Scripture helps us to memorize and meditate on it and the music helps us to connect with God emotionally. The whole book of Psalms is the hymnal of the Bible!

“Thus you see in the same Psalm [119] how David constantly boasts that he will talk, meditate, speak, sing, hear, read, by day and night and always, about nothing except God’s Word and commandments. For God will not give you his Spirit without the external Word; so take your cue from that. His command to write, preach, read, hear, sing, speak, etc., outwardly was not given in vain.”

Martin Luther



Ephesians 5:18-20

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 95:1-2

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

Matthew 26:30

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Acts 16:25

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Revelation 15:2-4

2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb:
"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.
4 Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Day Sixteen – Memorizing God's Word

Perhaps the most powerful way to engage with God's Word is to memorize it. Memorizing the Bible means we can meditate on it all day long and that we can have it available to us when we



most need it. We can see by the way Jesus continually quoted Scripture that he had memorized great portions of it. Jesus was absolutely soaked in God's Word, and He is our model.

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified"

Chuck Swindoll

"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization"

Dallas Willard

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

Deuteronomy 6:6

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Matthew 4:1-4

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...



Day Seventeen – God’s Word is clear

If our hearts are open to understanding and obeying God’s Word, it is clear and understandable. Strangely enough, a simple child who wishes to understand can grasp more than the greatest academic if he does not.

“The Bible is not a theological textbook, a philosophical treatise or the answer book to life’s questions. It is a thin place through which the presence of God breaks into this world and bursts with unpredictable consequences into our lives.”

Chris Webb

“I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God, and to meditation on it....What is the food of the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and...not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts.”

George Müller

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. 12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” 14 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

Psalms 119:130

The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Isaiah 55:10-11

10 Is the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth



and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

John 8:43-47

43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

John 10:27

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Day Eighteen – Increasing responsive to God's Word

It is possible to increase our responsiveness and understanding of the Word of God. We can better understand Scripture if we stand in God's counsel, grow in character, rid ourselves of evil and act humbly, by persevering through affliction and through the help of teachers and the Holy Spirit. Are you becoming increasingly responsive to God's Word? What is helping (or hindering) that process?

Bible engagement is "the process of taking in and living out God's Word for the purpose of knowing him better and experiencing him more."

Whitney Kuniholm, President of Scripture Union USA

Jeremiah 23:18

But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see or to hear his word?
Who has listened and heard his word?

**Luke 8:15**

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Psalm 119:67

Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I obey your word.

Acts 8:14-17

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Day Nineteen – God sometimes withholds his Word

There are situations where God will withhold his Word if we are not ready to receive it because of idolatry, rebellion, or by claiming we have not sinned.

“I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one book.”

John Wesley

Ezekiel 14:1-3

1 Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me. 2 Then the word of the LORD came to me: 3 “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?

Ezekiel 20:31

When you offer your gifts—the sacrifice of your children in the fire—you continue to defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. Am I to let you inquire of me, you Israelites? As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will not let you inquire of me.

1 John 1:10

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.



Day Twenty – God’s Word is wisdom

Wisdom is the ability to make practical and informed decisions. Through God’s Word we gain wisdom.

“Since the Word includes poetry, symbol, parable, exhortation, and so forth, God wants us to take his Word into our heart, to let it work upon us in all the subtle ways in which these forms of language change people. The Word thus changes our interests, our emotions, our priorities, our perspectives, our preoccupations. God wants us not only to believe him and obey him, but to be involved with him personally in a wide variety of ways.”

John Frame

Psalms 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

Ecclesiastes 12:11

The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.

Proverbs 2:6-8

6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
7 He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
8 for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Job 9:4

His wisdom is profound, his power is vast.
Who has resisted him and come out unscathed?



2 Timothy 3:15

and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Day Twenty-one – God’s Word is our life

God’s Word is our very life!

“The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.”

A.W. Tozer

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

46 he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Deuteronomy 4:1

Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

Psalms 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?



Day Twenty-two – God’s Word is to be obeyed

It is critical to remember that we are called to be doers of God’s Word, not just people who listen to it. To fully engage God’s Word means we must ultimately obey it.

“Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like trying to eat without swallowing.”

Anonymous

James 1:22-25

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Matthew 7:21-27

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Revelation 3:7-8

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

John 13:12-17

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and



‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Day Twenty-three – God values his Word

Because God’s Word is equal to God, God values his own Word.

“Here, then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.”

R. C. Sproul

2 Samuel 7:21

For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

Psalms 138:2

I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

Day Twenty-four – God entrusts us with his Word

We have an obligation to Scriptures because God has entrusted us with his Word.

“Whilst we are in the body, we need a change even in spiritual things; and this change the Lord has graciously provided in the great variety which is to be found in His word.”

George Mueller

Romans 3:2

Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.

**Romans 6:17**

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Galatians 2:7

On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.

Titus 1:3

and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior...

Day Twenty-five – God keeps his Word

God will always fulfill what he says he will do in his Word.

“It is fashionable in some academic circles to exercise scholarly criticism of the Bible. In so doing, scholars place themselves above the Bible and seek to correct it. If indeed the Bible is the Word of God, nothing could be more arrogant. It is God who corrects us; we don’t correct Him. We do not stand over God but under Him.”

R.C. Sproul

Ezra 1:1

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:



Lamentations 2:17a

The LORD has done what he planned;
he has fulfilled his word,
which he decreed long ago.

Mark 14:49

Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

Luke 4:20-21

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

John 19:36-37

36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” 37 and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

Day Twenty-six – Psalm 1

For the next 5 days you will read Psalm 1. This powerful Wisdom Psalm serves as an introduction to the entire book of Psalms. It is a psalm that contrasts the wicked person with the Godly person. Psalm 1 contains powerful images of living life nourished by God’s Word (described as “the law of the Lord” in verse 2).

Read the psalm for the first time to get familiar with it. Then go back and read it more slowly. Find a word or phrase that catches your eye and then slowly repeat that word to keep it in your memory. Talk to God about what the psalm means as it relates to your thoughts, needs or feelings.

What is the good news in this passage?

Remember, God is with you in his Word as you go over Psalm 1.

The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts. A. W. Tozer



Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Day Twenty-seven – Psalm 1

Today will be your second reading of Psalm 1. Don't feel like you know everything about the Psalm because you've read it before, there is always more to God's Word as we come back to familiar passages. The point of spending time with Psalm 1 is to let it soak into your life.

After you've read the passage for the first time, take your time to read it again. Is there an image that grabs you in some way? Dwell on that image; give it your full attention. Is there something about the Psalm you want to ask God about? Be quiet and rest in God's presence.

What does this passage say about who you are?



"When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, 'It is talking to me, and about me.'"

Soren Kierkegaard

Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
- 2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
- 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Day Twenty-eight – Psalm 1

Today is your third day reading Psalm 1. Is it starting to become rich to you? Covering a lot of passages is one way to engage the Scriptures (like the first 25 days of this reading plan), but spending many days on one passage can be a rich source of spiritual growth too.

Read the psalm then read it again out loud. Does it make a difference when you hear the words in your ears? Read it for a third time out loud and emphasize in your reading what most connects with you. Remember that God is with you as you read. Be silent and know God.

Does this psalm help you learn anything about who God is?



“It is impossible to estimate full influence of the reading of the Word in a home day after day and year after year. It filters into the hearts of the young. It is absorbed into their souls. It colors all their thoughts. It is wrought into the very fiber of their minds. It imbues them with its own spirit. It’s holy teachings become the principles of their lives, which rule their conduct and shape all their actions.”

J.R. Miller

Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
- 2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
- 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Day Twenty-nine – Psalm 1

This will be your 4th day reading Psalm 1. Are you noticing that you are starting to have the psalm memorized? One of the benefits of spending longer amounts of time with one passage is that it starts to make a place in your mind.

Read the passage once, then go back and pray the passage. To pray the passage means to turn your thoughts about the passage into a conversation with God. Talk to God about what you want or are afraid of from the passage. Praise God for what he promises in the passage.



Confess to God from the passage where you fall short. Thank God for his promises in the passage.

How does this passage call us to a new way of life?

“We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.”

John Stott

Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
- 2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
- 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Day Thirty – Psalm 1

You have spent 30 days now looking at passages that speak about God’s Word. Has your commitment to and love for the Word deepened? Stop for a minute and praise God for his Word.



Today you will look one more time at Psalm 1. Read the passage twice, reminding yourself that you are in God's presence. Let the Holy Spirit direct you toward what God might be speaking to you. Do you notice any inclinations to action as you read this passage? What might be underneath these inclinations?

As you read in one of the earlier days of this reading plan, we are called to have God's Word on our tongue. In other words we are to speak about it to others. Who could you share some of your personal connections with Psalm 1 with today?

"The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for."

Martin Luther

Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
- 2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
- 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.