



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Ready, Set, Read!

INTRODUCTION

Daily Reading Plan:

This is where the daily reading schedule will go.

Every 7th day -REST*
(Ex.16:30)

*use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:
Gen. 1-11
Job 1-14

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.

James 1:25

From this verse comes the five part model we will use for our study.

1. **Read** (look intently)
2. **Study** (continue to look)
3. **Memorize** (not forgetting)
4. **Do** (doing what was heard)
5. **Being blessed**

POP QUIZ! Let's take a little quiz and see how we do:

1. Who was the wife of Uriah? 2 Samuel 11:3
2. Who was the mother of Ishmael and handmaiden of Sarai? Gen. 16:1-11
3. Who was Aaron's wife? Ex. 6:23
4. Which women have a book of the Bible named after them?
5. Who was the mother of the prophet Samuel? 1 Samuel 1:20
6. Who was King Ahab's wife? 1 Kings 21:5
7. What woman killed her grandchildren? 2 Kings 11:1-3
8. Whose daughters convinced Moses to change a law? Numbers 27:7
9. Who was Jacob's wife? Gen. 46:19
10. What woman kept David from acting in anger? 1 Sam. 25:14-35

How did you do? Soon, if not already, you will know these and much more. But we will hopefully accomplish even more than filling our heads with Bible facts. There are other questions that I hope we will learn how to answer. Try this quiz.

1. How does our relationship with God affect our relationships with others?
2. What does it mean to know God, to love Him with all that I am?
3. Where has my faith been shallow and how can it become deeper?
4. What is my role as a woman in my family, in my church, and in my world?
5. How am I to reflect God's image and bring Him glory?

There aren't easy answers with a quick reference to these questions, but the answers are there waiting for us to dig for them!

1. READ IT -look intently

WHAT

I came up with the chronological (arranged roughly in the order that the events actually occurred instead of as they are placed in the Bible) reading plan that we will use by combining and adjusting a few different plans. I stayed as close as possible to a true chronological reading while trying to keep things as simple as possible. In addition to trying to make the week of reading start and stop at a reasonable break point, I also made some considerations unique to a woman's schedule. For example, I tried to lighten the reading load around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Generally we start the week with the longer readings and then taper off toward the week's end. Another difference from most reading plans is the day of rest on every seventh day of reading. My idea is that we have completed the reading for the week, and can spend this day contemplating it and soaking it in, maybe reading through the study guide or just praying through what we have read. Realistically, I know that there will be times that we need a catch up day, or need to read ahead in anticipation of a busy week.

WHY

The caution I give is that you don't get so focused on conquering the reading plan that you miss what is said. Allow time to ask questions, look for answers, and seek the relationship that the collection of words on paper is intended to produce. This isn't about becoming Bible scholars; this is about who God is. This is about gaining the **freedom** that He says the perfect law (Greek *nomos* in James 1:25) will bring. This is about discovering who we are in relationship to who God is. This is about stretching our minds and hearts to have a richer, deeper relationship with God. This is about changing the way we live in the world around us. This is about living better, loving better and glorifying God better. This is about becoming the women that God wants us to be, living the lives that He created us for. This is about helping each other do all of these things. We must remind each other that this is why we read.

2. STUDY -continue to look intently



Reading alone, without study and meditation, will not accomplish our goal. Many people have read the Bible and remained unmoved, and unchanged. Study, as I define it, involves many things.

First, it is yielding ourselves and what we have read to the Spirit and asking Him to guide us in understanding.

John 14:15-17 _____

John 16:13 _____

Next, it is choosing to open our hearts to sometimes painful convicting, being open to the need and possibility of change. The truth is that Scripture studied in this manner **will** change us.

Psalms 139:23-24 _____

Isaiah 55:11 _____

Finally, we are ready for what we consider study. The study guide will contain some information, but is mainly designed to get us to thinking and digging and discussing. There will be questions to answer and puzzles to do to help you dig. I also encourage you to keep a notepad handy while you read so you can jot down questions or ideas for further study. Pray. Ask. Think. Read and reread.

3. MEMORIZE –

-not forgetting what was heard

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

[12] Praise be to you, O Lord;
teach me your decrees.

[13] **With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.**

[14] I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.

[15] I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.

[16] I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

Psalm 119:11-16

Describe a time when a memorized verse came to
mind in a timely way.

Think of memorizing Scripture as handing God
another tool with which to shape and mold you. In
each week's study guide there will be a verse from
that week's reading that I encourage you to memorize.
Memory cards will be available to carry with you.
This is a weak point for me, so I'll need your help! At
the end of the year we will have 52 memorized verses
to add to our armor. (Read Eph. 6:10-20)



“Most adults say that they don't make
resolutions anymore because they can't
keep them. So it may be that instead of
resolutions, mature Christians should be
establishing priorities to enhance the
qualities of their lives.”

Baily McBride (p.34 of the Jan. 07 issue of the Christian
Chronicle)

4. Do it

This is where the rubber meets the road. None of this will mean anything if it doesn't change us. Knowledge is
useless if it doesn't affect our living and loving. We learn in order to live faithful, obedient lives in a way that
brings God glory.

Joshua 1:8 _____

Micah 6:8 _____

2 Cor. 3:14-18 _____

1 John 1:5-7 _____

1 John 2:6 _____

5. BE BLESSED

This one is a little different because it is something we receive rather than do. It is where the other four lead us, but only because God works it that way.

What blessings do you think we can expect to receive? _____

What do you think it **doesn't** mean? _____

The Greek word translated "blessed" in James 1:25 is makarios. Biblically, a person is pronounced blessed when God is present and involved in their life. The hand of God is directing all his affairs for a divine purpose. This sense of blessedness is sharing in the life of God, being favorably affected and influenced by God. List some of the things this includes:

Luke 6:20 _____

Luke 12:37 _____

Luke 14:13-14 _____

Romans 4:7-8 _____

Romans 14:22 _____

1 Peter 4:14 _____

Rev. 14:13 _____

Rev. 16:15 _____

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. [8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 1:5-8



Is your faith the focal point of your life? Do you really love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, and ALL your strength (Mark 12:30) and is it showing in your life? How intentional are you about growing spiritually? Is it just something that you hope will happen by attending church every Sunday, or are you really putting yourself into serious training to put yourself in the position to allow God to work in and through you?

There is a growing gap between those who are serious about their faith, devoted with a fiery passion to it, and those who are complacent and even careless about what is happening in their spiritual being. Which will you be?

Do you think this spiritual training is best done in our own personal lives, or within a community of believers? _____

“So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

Rev. 3:16

What better blessing than to be counted with the hot ones?