

FIVE AHEAD

A One Month Reading Plan Covering Five Books That Contain the Central Truths of the Bible

The Reading Plan

Day 1 Genesis 1-4

God creates a perfect world, but humanity falls into sin.

Day 2 Genesis 5-9

God destroys the evil world with a flood but spares Noah and his family. The rainbow is the sign of God's promise to recreate instead of obliterate humanity.

Day 3 Genesis 10-14

Humanity rebels against God again at the tower of Babel; God calls Abram to start a "new community."

Day 4 Genesis 15-19

God pledges to bless the whole world through Abram; he destroys Sodom and Gomorrah, showing his resolve to restrain human sin.

Day 5 Genesis 20-24

Isaac, the son of God's promise, is born. God provides him with a family, and so expands his covenant people.

Day 6 Genesis 25-28

Jacob deceives his twin brother Esau and his father Isaac, but experiences God's kindness in spite of his scheming.

Day 7 Genesis 29-36

The story of Jacob's family life and reconciliation with Esau.

Day 8 Genesis 37-41

Joseph earns his brother's envy and is betrayed. Through a fascinating series of events, Joseph goes from being a slave and prisoner to being second in command under Egypt's Pharaoh.

Day 9 Genesis 42-45

Joseph's brothers come to Egypt looking for food, and discover that God had turned their treachery into triumph for Joseph.

Day 10 Genesis 46-50

Jacob's entire family moves to Egypt, and the nation of Israel flourishes.

Day 11 Deuteronomy 1-6

Moses, God's chosen leader over Israel, prepares God's people to enter the promised land by reviewing God's commands (including the Ten Commandments)

Day 12 Deuteronomy 7-10

Moses makes predictions of prosperity for an obedient Israel and gives them warnings from their past.

Day 13 Deuteronomy 11-15

Moses gives the people God's rules for worship, cleanliness and respect for each other in the promised land.

Day 14 Deuteronomy 16-20

The Israelites hear God's rules about worship, festivals, establishing a government and legal system, and going to war.

Day 15 Deuteronomy 21-25

These chapters contain specific instructions for the keeping people of Israel from evil influences.

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Day 16 Deuteronomy 26-30

God gives Israel a choice: "Obey me and live, or disobey and be destroyed."

Day 17 Deuteronomy 31-34

Moses appoints a successor, blesses the tribes of Israel, and gets a final look at God's promised land before he dies.

Day 18 John 1-5

After waiting many centuries, Israel gets its first look at the Messiah, Jesus, who shows his divinity through various miracles.

Day 19 John 6-11

Jesus affirms his identity as the Messiah and performs convincing miracles. The Jewish leaders refuse to accept Jesus' claims and plot to have him killed.

Day 20 John 12-16

Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph and predicts his coming, suffering and death. He promises that the Holy Spirit will come back to take his place when he returns to heaven.

Day 21 John 17-21

Jesus prays for all his followers throughout all times and resolutely faces his execution. Three days later he appears again alive -- victorious forever over the power of death!

Day 22 Acts 1-5

Christ ascends to heaven and, as promised, the Holy Spirit comes. The church grows by leaps and bounds, and Jewish opposition heats up.

Day 23 Acts 6-10

Persecution scatters believers so that Christ's message is heard in non-Jewish regions. Saul's conversion and Peter's vision serve to sharpen the new church's focus on reaching all people everywhere.

Day 24 Acts 11-15

Church leaders in Jerusalem debate Jewish customs as it relates to non-Jewish believers. Meanwhile, the apostles continue their bold stand for Christ in faraway cities.

Day 25 Acts 16-20

Paul and the apostles travel to various cities where they preach and experience opposition, persecution, prison, and even a riot. Still, the church grows in each city.

Day 26 Acts 21-28

This is the action packed account of Paul's arrest and journey to stand trial in Rome; eventually he carries the word of Christ's resurrection to the leaders of this leading capital city of the ancient world.

Day 27 Romans 1-4

Paul begins this letter by emphasizing the "bad news" that all the world has sinned, but then shares the "good news" the reconciliation with God is available through faith in Jesus Christ.

Day 28 Romans 5-8

Paul tells us that even though sin is pervasive and powerful, we can have the assurance that all of our sin is covered by Christ's death and resurrection. A new life is available through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Day 29 Romans 9-11

Paul explains that God, in his grace, chooses disobedient people to become his followers -- just as he did with the Israelites of long ago. Only because of God's work can anyone be rescued from sin.

Day 30 Romans 12-16

Paul gives guidelines for living the kind of life that pleases God day by day.

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