



30 DAYS TO KNOWING JESUS

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DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## **The Pre-Stuff to Help With the Other Stuff:**

(Helpful Guides for this Bible Reading Plan)

### **How do I find the books of the bible?**

In the front of your bible should be an index of the books of the bible. Almost all of these references are from the New Testament (the last quarter of the bible) and from the first four books of the New Testament.

The order of the 1<sup>st</sup> four books of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John - these books are referred to as "The Gospels" which means "good news". They are where almost all of the life and teachings of Jesus are recorded. When looking up a bible verse it will be listed like this "Matthew 1:18-25", Matthew is the book, 1 is the chapter or "big number" and the 18-25 refers to the verses (the small numbers).

### **My bible has text above and below, which do I read?**

If you have a bible someone gave you that has text written above and below, usually the text above is the actual text of the bible, and below are the cliff notes to help you understand what you are reading or to answer questions that are common about those verses.

### **Ok, I read it, now what? Am I supposed to have an epiphany?**

Learning to ask the right questions makes all the difference in studying the bible. Try doing this and see if it helps. Use this booklet as a journal that you can keep by you while you read the bible. In it, answer these questions each time you study a passage of scripture.

1. What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?
2. What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

***Some examples:*** Jesus was trying to tell us what it's like to really have faith. Or, Jesus was using his power to show people that He was really God.

3. From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

There are a lot more questions you can ask, but if you start with these, you'll do great!

### **What kind of bible should I be reading?**

We would suggest that you get a version of the bible called the NIV (New International Version) or the NLT (New Living Translation) - these are translated from the original languages using the language the way we actually speak. If you try to read from a King James Version - you will probably find yourself getting discouraged right away.

You can also download a bible reading app for your phone at [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)

We would also suggest considering investing in something called a "Study Bible" these bibles have text at the bottom of the page designed to help you better understand the context of what you are reading.

### **Some of these plans want me to read several chapters; I don't have that kind of time...**

Actually, bible chapters are different than books; many of them are only a few paragraphs long. My guess is that it will take less than 10 minutes for you to read a couple of chapters and answer the questions. How much time did you spend on Facebook today?? Maybe you can find some time to read the bible 😊

### **I want to highlight something in my bible, but isn't that Sacrilege?**

Ha, no, actually writing personal notes and highlighting scripture can be very helpful for some people as a tool to

remember where things were written and to capture thoughts that God is placing inside of you...

**One final note...**

Knowing the bible is important, but actually having God using the words to infect and influence your life will be life altering. Each time before you sit down and read the bible, why not say a little prayer asking God to join you and to speak to you in deep places about what He longs for in your life? Jesus said He was like a shepherd, that means He longs to have input into your life, directing & protecting you!

This has personally been one of the most important tools of my (Kent) own biblestudy..

**HEBREWS 4:12 (NIV)**

*“For the word of God is alive 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 1 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Foretold (Isaiah 53 - *this is in the Old Testament*)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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## Day 2 | Theme Passage:

The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18–25)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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### Day 3 | Theme Passage:

John the Baptist Prepares the Way and Baptizes Jesus  
(Matthew 3:1—4:11)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 4 | Theme Passage:

Water to Wine and the Samaritan Woman (John 2:1–11;  
John 4:1–26)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 5 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Rejected in his Hometown (Luke 4:14–30)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 6 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Calls his Disciples (Luke 5:1–11; Matthew 9:9–13)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 7 | Theme Passage:

Sermon on the Mount (Luke 6:17–46)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 8 | Theme Passage:

A Centurion, a Widow's Son and a Sinful Woman (Matthew 8:1–13; Luke 7:11–17; 7:36–50)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 9 | Theme Passage:

Encounters With the Pharisees (Matthew 12:1–13; 22–45)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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**Day 10 | Theme Passage:**

Parable of the Sower, Weeds and Seeds (Matthew 13:1–43)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 11 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Calms the Storm and Later Walks on Water (Luke 8:22–25; Mark 6:45–56)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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## Day 12 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Heals a Man, Woman and Girl (Mark 5:1–43)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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**Day 13 | Theme Passage:**

Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1–14)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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**Day 14 | Theme Passage:**

Peter Identifies the Christ and the Transfiguration (Luke 9:18–27; Luke 17:1–8)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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**Day 15 | Theme Passage:**

Healing by Faith (Mark 9: 14–32)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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## Day 16 | Theme Passage:

Teachings and Parables (Matthew 17:24—18:20)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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**Day 17 | Theme Passage:**

Teachings and Parables (Matthew 18:21—19:15)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 18 | Theme Passage:

The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17–31)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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**Day 19 | Theme Passage:**

Disciples Sent Out (Luke 10:1–24)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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**Day 20 | Theme Passage:**

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 21 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Teaches how to Pray (Luke 11:1–13)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 22 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Resurrects Lazarus (John 11:1–44)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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## Day 23 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–27)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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**Day 24 | Theme Passage:**

The Last Supper (John 13:1–17; Matthew 26:17–35)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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## Day 25 | Theme Passage:

Comfort for the Disciples (John 14–15)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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From this passage, what are things that I think God would want me to change in my life, or in our society?

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**Day 26 | Theme Passage:**

Jesus Arrested and Disowned (Matthew 26:36–75)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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**Day 27 | Theme Passage:**

Jesus' Trial (John 18:19—19:16)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 28 | Theme Passage:

Jesus Crucifixion and Death (John 19:17–42)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 29 | Theme Passage:

Jesus' Resurrection and Appearances (John 20–21)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## Day 30 | Theme Passage:

The Great Commission and the Ascension of Jesus  
(Matthew 28:16–20; Luke 24:50–53)

What did I learn about Jesus or God from this passage that I didn't know or understand before?

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What is important about this passage (in other words, why was this particular story recorded)?

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## The End...

Or is it?

If you've made it this far, don't stop now! Try taking the same habits and skills you just developed (reading the bible using good critical thinking skills) and apply it to a book of the bible.

**Why not try the book of Acts, or James?**

***Our recommendation is that you try and stay in the New Testament until you have read the entire New Testament.***

