# *The* Bible *in a* Year *Reading Plan*

FIRST ALLIANCE
CHURCH

*We are so glad that you have decided to journey with us through the Bible this year!*

# Introduction

At First Alliance, our values state that we

**Are Biblically Grounded**

**Believe in Expectant Prayer**

**Pursue Transformational Discipleship**

We are on mission to passionately pursue God, extend life-changing hope, and disciple people to be Spirit-empowered followers of Jesus Christ!

With that in mind, we are not merely reading the Bible together this year to know more facts about it. We are reading it because through it we encounter the living Word of God! As we study it, we know God better, deepening our relationship with Him. As we apply it to our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and reflect Him to the world around us.

**This year, we will cover the entire Bible!** Each day has a set of chapters to read. We have space for you to journal as you read and reflect through reading and prayer.

**We have provided a monthly verse** for you to pray, meditate on or encourage others with throughout that month. The verse comes from one of the readings you will encounter in your reading plan that month! Revisit this verse daily and notice how God directs you and speaks to you.

## As we journey through the Bible this year, here are a few tips!

Read over the resources section (on pages 3-4). Use whatever resources are helpful for you to support your learning style and familiarity level with Scripture. Also know you don't have to use ANY other resources. All you need is in this notebook to read along!

Use a physical Bible as opposed to a phone if you can. This will limit distractions.

If you miss a day, make it up... or don't. Just don't give up... step right back in! Any amount of Scripture intake is better than no Scripture intake.

Ask God to guide you each day as you read His Word. His Holy Spirit will help you.

It's ok to wrestle with what you read. Take your wrestling to God and a trusted godly mentor. Band with a few friends and have a text or live group. Journey with people!

We are excited to see what God is going to do in us and through us this year as we study His Word.

*The FAC Staff*

# Resources

We have chosen to follow the reading plan that also coincides with *The Bible Recap*, a well respected podcast and plan. Because we are following that reading order, here is a list of a few free resources that will specifically help you through this year's plan.

**You Version Bible**
(available at the app store and online at youversion.com)

- You can join The Bible Recap plan to follow along (search under plans and click)!
- It shows you what to read that day chapter by chapter.
- It links a devotional to begin your reading.
- It also links videos and resources to support the reading, such as The Bible Project overview of each book!
- It can read the Scripture to you if you want to listen as opposed to read.

**The Bible Recap & The Bible Project**
(available in podcast format and online at thebiblerecap.com)

- Subscribe to the daily podcast and it will appear every morning in your podcast feed.
- In about 7 minutes a day, the host gives some historical and biblical context for each day.
- The show notes have great resources such as video links, overview of books and more.
- The podcast should follow our plan day by day.

**Blue Letter Bible**
(available at the app store and online at blueletterbible.org)

- It can be used for deeper study.
- It has several different versions to compare side by side.
- You can see the Greek and Hebrew words and their meanings.
- It has commentaries to read more about historical and scriptural context.
- This does not go with our plan but can be a great deeper dive resource.

***Please note that FAC does not endorse every interpretation, explanation or article presented by these ministries and their representatives.***

# Methods

You do not have to follow a specific method when you read Scripture, but we do want to take time to both read and apply what we have learned. Here are two acronyms that may be helpful as you read and journal each day.

### The HEAR Journal Method

(developed by our friends at Foundry Church)

Step 1: **Highlight** - Read the chapters for each day. Highlight one or two verses that the Holy Spirit places on your heart by writing them down on the day's journal page.

Step 2: **Explain** - Explain the significance of that verse. What does it say about God? What does it say about humans? What does the surrounding context teach you about the verse?

Step 3: **Apply** - James 1:22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Our goal is not just to learn about the Bible, but to obey what God is teaching us. Write down a way you can apply what you learned. Is there a sin to avoid, a promise to claim, an example to learn from, a command to obey, or knowledge to embrace?

Step 4: **Respond** - Write a brief prayer to God based on the passage you read, what you learned, and how you will align your life with God's Word. Don't try to impress God. Instead, pray an honest prayer.

### The SOAP Method

Step 1: **Scripture** - Read the chapters for each day. Highlight one or two scripture verses that stand out to you.  Pause there for a bit.  Don't rush on.

Step 2: **Observe** - Take some time to examine that Scripture you chose. Why did it stop you? What does it say about God? What does it say about humans? Make the observation personal. For example, "God, I see that you are kind." or "God, I see that humans tend to worship things other than you."

Step 3: **Application** - Is there a way that you can ask God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to help you live this truth out? Write down a way you can apply what you observed.

Step 4: **Pray** - Take time to pray through the observation, application and passage in general. Then move on to the other things you would like to bring to God today.

# Take Some Time to Pray...

Prayer is an essential part of a relationship with God. Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to pray. He taught his disciples to pray. And over and over in the New Testament we are reminded to pray! God hears us when we pray, and we are changed as we pray.

Prayer does not have to follow a specific formula. It is a conversation with the living, loving God! That said, Matthew 6:9-13, often referred to as the Lord's Prayer, can give us some helpful insights as we approach the Lord each day in prayer. If helpful, you can follow the order below as you walk through your daily prayer time.

1. **"Our Father in heaven"** - Take time to connect with God relationally. Acknowledge him as your loving Father, sovereign over all.

2. **"Hallowed be your name"** - Worship Him! Praise Him for Who He is and all He has done. Praise Him for His Word. Praise Him for the fresh things you came across in your reading of His Word.

3. **"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**- Ask Him to give you His agenda and His heart for you, your family, your friends, your church and the world. We are here to build His kingdom, not for Him to build ours. Confess areas of sin and selfishness.

4. **"Give us this day our daily bread"** - Acknowledge that you depend on Him for everything. John 15:5 says that without Him we do nothing. He also is our supplier for all we need, internally and externally. Approach Him with your needs, concerns, desires and hopes. Ask Him for what you need physically and spiritually. Bring Him your day ahead.

5. **"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"** - Heart check time. Are you harboring unforgiveness or bitterness or greed? Have you offended someone? Check your relationships and bring them to Him.

6. **"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"** - Engage in spiritual warfare! This is important! He has given us armor to wear (Ephesians 6:10-18). Ask God to show you any lies you're believing or areas of warfare happening in your sphere. Ask Him to expose the enemy and to help you and others understand and receive His truth. Be honest about temptation areas and ask for continued strength.

*Close by remembering that Jesus (Heb. 7:24) and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8) are praying with you and for you. Seal your prayer in the acknowledgment that He has heard you.* ***For His is the Kingdom, power, and glory forever and ever. Amen!***

# January

*"But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last."*

**Job 19:25, NLT**

As you read the Word this month and spend time in prayer, consider what God might want you to meditate on and apply this year.

# January 1

Read: Genesis 1-3

# January 2

Read: Genesis 4-7

# January 3

Read: Genesis 8-11

# January 4

Read: Job 1-5

# January 5

Read: Job 6-9

# January 6

Read: Job 10-13

# January 7

Read: Job 14-16

# January 8

Read: Job 17-20

# January 9

Read: Job 21-23

# January 10

Read: Job 24-28

# January 11

Read: Job 29-31

# January 12

Read: Job 32-34

# January 13

Read: Job 35-37

# January 14

Read: Job 38-39

# January 15

Read: Job 40-42