

## MATTHEW READING PLAN

We all need encouragement to read the Bible regularly. Maybe one thing that's kept you from consistent Bible reading is not knowing what to read or where to turn. Our goal in providing this reading plan is to provide a starting point. We also pray it provides a sense of togetherness and mutual accountability as many in our church use this plan together.

Each day's section is long enough to provide a cohesive section to reflect on and apply but short enough to allow time to actually dig in, pray over, and meditate on. If you miss a day, don't beat yourself up or quit. Instead, rest in God's grace, and combine readings to catch up. Remember, the goal isn't to check the box and move on but to use this time to better know and follow God, be changed, and mirror Christ to others.

Day	Date	Text
1	1/7	1:1-24
2	1/8	2:1-12
3	1/9	2:13-23
4	1/10	3:1-12
5	1/11	3:13-17
6	1/12	4:1-11
7	1/13	4:12-25
8	1/14	5:1-12
9	1/15	5:13-48
10	1/16	6:1-6
11	1/17	6:7-15
12	1/18	6:16-24
13	1/19	6:25-34
14	1/20	7:1-11
15	1/21	7:12-23
16	1/22	7:24-29
17	1/23	8:1-13
18	1/24	8:14-34
19	1/25	9:1-17
20	1/26	9:18-38
21	1/27	10:1-25
22	1/28	10:26-42
23	1/29	11:1-19
24	1/30	11:20-30
25	1/31	12:1-21
26	2/1	12:22-50
27	2/2	13:1-23
28	2/3	13:24-58

Day	Date	Text
29	2/4	14:1-21
30	2/5	14:22-36
31	2/6	15:1-31
32	2/7	15:32-39
33	2/8	16:1-14
34	2/9	16:15-28
35	2/10	17:1-13
36	2/11	17:14-27
37	2/12	18:1-14
38	2/13	18:15-35
39	2/14	19:1-15
40	2/15	19:16-30
41	2/16	20:1-19
42	2/17	20:20-34
43	2/18	21:1-17
44	2/19	21:18-46
45	2/20	22:1-14
46	2/21	22:15-46
47	2/22	23:1-39
48	2/23	24:1-51
49	2/24	25:1-46
50	2/25	26:1-35
51	2/26	26:36-75
52	2/27	27:1-31
53	2/28	27:32-66
54	3/1	28:1-15
55	3/2	28:16-20



## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE

A key part of understanding and applying God's Word is to read it reflectively. The questions below are not exhaustive, but they provide the framework of *Look, Understand, Apply*, and *Pray* to help guide your reading. Find ways that help you study and apply God's Word. Take notes; write down thoughts and prayers; ask questions; meditate on what you see; and if something doesn't make sense ask a mature believer or use a good study Bible or commentary.

As you get started, protect yourself from distractions as much as you can. Stay away from your phone, email, social media, or TV. If possible, get alone in a semi-quiet place. Grab your Bible, a pencil, and a notepad. Pray for God's Spirit to give you understanding of what you read, to help you know and love God more, and to change you through it.

### LOOK

#### *What do I see?*

- 1) What stood out to you right away, or what did you notice? Is there anything new you've not noticed before?
- 2) Are there keywords, themes, repeated words or ideas, connecting words, transitional statements, or parallel sentences?
- 3) What is the main point of the passage?
- 4) What metaphors, word-pictures, or allusions does the author use?
- 5) To see key points of the passage, ask: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

### UNDERSTAND

#### *What does it mean?*

- 1) What is the context of this passage (historical, cultural, literary)? What happened just before this that connects?
- 2) What other verses or cross-references might help you better understand this passage or shed light on it?
- 3) Does this section contain commands, promises, warnings, theological truths, identity statements about who we are, or habits to develop? How are they used and what role do they play in the passage?
- 4) What does this tell us about God (his attributes, actions, promises, purposes, heart, etc.)? How is God at work? How might this text create in us greater trust, worship, and love for God? How is God the hero of this story?
- 5) How would you summarize the author's message to his original audience in one to two sentences?

### APPLY

#### *What do I need to do, believe, delight in, or change?*

- 1) Was there anything God impressed on your heart through this text that you need to respond to?
- 2) How does it apply to your own circumstances? Is there:
  - A command to obey or live out?
  - A truth to understand and believe?
  - A promise to cling to and act on?
  - A sin or idol to confess, turn from, and replace?
  - An attribute or action of God to give thanks for or worship him because of it?
- 3) How might your life look different because of these verses? Where do you need to depend on the Spirit for help?
- 4) Are there ways you can better serve, love, and encourage those around me as you apply this? How so?
- 5) How does this passage point us to the gospel of grace and Jesus as our hope and help?

### PRAY

#### *What should I pray in light of this?*

Seal these truths in your heart through prayer as a direct response to what you've just read and seen. Pray for the things on your mind but also pray God's Word back to him. Pray over the things you've discovered. Ask God for help to obey him and walk in the Spirit. Thank God for who he is and all he's done. Pray for opportunities to show Christ and share Christ to those around you today.