

#ReadTheBook 2020

On December 30, 1842, a Scottish pastor named Robert Murray M'Cheyne wrote a letter to his congregation. He said:

MY DEAR FLOCK,—The approach of another year stirs up within me new desires for your salvation, and for the growth of those of you who are saved. “God is my record how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.” What the coming year is to bring forth, who can tell? . . . Those believers will stand firmest who have no dependence upon self or upon creatures, but upon Jehovah our Righteousness. We must be driven more to our Bibles, and to the mercy-seat, if we are to stand in the evil day. Then we shall be able to say like David, “The proud have had me greatly in derision, yet have I not declined from thy law.” “Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart standeth in awe of thy Word.” It has long been in my mind to prepare a scheme of Scripture reading, in which as many as were made willing by God might agree, so that the whole Bible might be read once by you in the year, and all might be feeding in the same portion of the green pasture at the same time.

I feel that same desire for our church and would like to invite you to join me on a TWO-YEAR journey through the Bible. The extra time is to allow us to read prayerfully instead of hastily; to allow the Word to soak in and not just speed by. The plan here is based upon a plan put together by Stephen Witmer of The Gospel Coalition and upon the book “How to Read the Bible Book by Book” by Gordon Fee. I have modified the progression of readings to allow us to alternate between Old & New Testament readings.

Would you join me in 2020 to #ReadTheBook together?

THE CENTRAL FIGURE: JESUS

“There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them...at the center of the Story, there is a baby. Every Story in the Bible whispers his name...”

- from the *Jesus Storybook Bible*



BIBLE READING AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY

Living in community as a church means that we make an intentional choice to grow together in our relationship with Jesus. In other words... do this plan with others in our church community. Talk with them about what you're reading each day.

We believe that through this process you will see God do some amazing things in your life and in the lives of those around you. Another way you can encourage others in this journey is to log on to the SCC Facebook page and leave a comment about the daily reading. We would love to hear from you there.

HOW THE PLAN WORKS

Old Testament & New Testament — You'll read 1-2 chapters a day and progress through one book of Scripture at a time. By doing this you will read the entire NT & OT in two years.

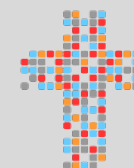
Psalms & Proverbs — You'll read one psalm or section of Proverbs each day. By doing this you will read these two books 4 times in two years.

What if I miss a day? — **DON'T STRESS!** And don't try to play catch up for the days you've missed. Just join back in reading on the day you're able to start... or start again.

Your Fellow Servant in Jesus,
Joe Horan
Lead Pastor | Starkville Community Church

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