

The BIG Idea

Reading the Bible for Understanding

This reading plan works through all 66 books of the Bible, grouped by theme, tone and accessibility. It's designed for readers who want to engage whole books, one at a time, without getting bogged down in dense or confusing material early on in the process. You are invited to move at your own pace and to use the reflection questions to engage the story more deeply.

Reflection Questions: The Bible's many books point to central truths.

- What does this book teach me about the character of God?
- What kind of world is God calling people to build?
- Who's included, and who's left out?

1. Good News: The Way of Jesus God draws near to those who suffer.

Meet Jesus first. Read all four Gospels to understand his teachings, actions and invitations.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

2. Identity: Liberation and Covenant God makes a way where there appears to be no way.

Journey through foundational stories in which God's people seek freedom and discover their identity.

Exodus, Genesis, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth

3. Prophecy: Messages of Justice and Hope God expects us to work for justice.

Hear from voices that challenge injustice, call for repentance and dream of restoration.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

4. Poetry + Wisdom: Living Fully and Questioning Deeply God can handle our raw emotions.

Explore writings that reflect human emotion, divine mystery and everyday wisdom.

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Job

5. Community: The Growth of a Movement What's best for ALL is best for me.

Watch followers of Jesus figure out how to live out the gospel in radical, inclusive ways.

Acts, James, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians

6. Exile: Faith On the Margins God lives and works in the margins.

Encounter stories of loss, resilience and courage as God's people navigate exile and return.

1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

7. Renewal: Endings and Beginnings Renewal is God's gift AND invitation.

Discover journeys, visions and teachings that point to God's renewing work.

Revelation, Hebrews, Titus, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Philemon, Leviticus, Numbers