



Bible read-thru groups

What is a Bible Read-Thru Group?

A group of believers who have committed themselves to reading through the Bible, supporting and encouraging each other, and sharing what they're learning.

What is the goal?

To read through the whole Bible, focusing on a chosen theme, and to grow in the ability to minister to others by sharing what is being learned.

Why do we follow a theme?

By following a particular theme, each member of the group, whether new on their spiritual journey or far along, will discover . . .

- . . . what the whole Bible has to say about a particular topic
- . . . that they have important insights to share with the group
- . . . that following a theme helps to focus attention while reading.

Each member of the group is free to choose a theme that appeals to him/her personally:

- something that they have questions about
- an aspect of God's character that is unfamiliar to them
- an aspect of their own character that needs development.

In other words, what does the Bible have to say about . . . ?

Love, joy, mercy, peace, rest/stress, forgiveness, prayer, holiness, obedience, creation, blood, salvation, power, miracles, listening, promises, healing, confrontation, parenting, wisdom, grace, discipline of life, discipline of God, feasting/fasting, leadership, servanthood, communication/the tongue, the role of women, the role of men, patience, heart of God, etc.

How many people are in each group?

A group of 3-5 is ideal. This allows each member to have about 15-20 minutes to share each week, with about 10 minutes at the end for prayer requests. (When the group grows to 6 or more, it's time to split into two groups).

Please put prayer requests at the end of your time together. This ensures ample time for sharing the Word, which most often is the source of the answers of our prayers.

How long should we meet?

Somewhere between 1-2 hours a week. Start and stop on time, to honor those on tight schedules. Commit yourselves to at least 3 months, but consider reforming groups after a year. Remember, one of the goals is to grow new groups. This helps to maintain a freshness and vitality within our spiritual lives.

Does this meeting include Bible Study?

Not in the traditional sense with a designated teacher. In a Read-Thru every member shares what they have found in their own personal reading. This allows each one to grow and develop skills in ministry, preparing each one to branch out and start a new Read-Thru at some point.

So what do we each have to do?

1. Keep a journal, i.e. write down each day what you're finding in the Word. Verses on your theme, question, other meaningful insights, application.
2. Share these verses with the group. Listen and learn while others share.
3. Share a 2-3 of your own prayer requests.
4. Write down the other's requests and pray for them during the week.
Please limit these requests to each member's personal needs (not your neighbor's uncle that you've not met) and for that member as they relate to others. Remember, these requests are confidential unless you gain permission to share them.
5. Take turns leading the meeting. This will prepare each member to start leading new groups in the future. The leader facilitates the meeting, making sure that the following things happen, asking other members to each take a part:
Opening prayer
Testimonies – take a few minutes each meeting until every one has shared. This is key to understanding each others' spiritual desires and needs.
Sharing from personal Bible reading
Prayer requests
Closing prayer
6. Be faithful in coming. Be honest . . . this is not the Spiritual Olympics!



Keep in mind

If you read 4 chapters a day, six days a week, you will finish the Bible in one year, with two weeks to spare (or catch up).

If you read 3 chapters a day in the New Testament, it will take about 3 months to read it all.

As a group you can choose to all read the same amount starting in the same place, or you can each have individual goals. Either way works great.

Our prayer is that whatever style, format, or method you use to read your Bible, you will read it intensively, aggressively, and in its entirety. We hope that you will fall in love with God through His Word. We encourage you to explore, to dig, and to seek answers from God's heart. Please, allow God's Word to penetrate your lives and hearts! How can we love God unless we know Him?



STRENGTHEN YOUR HOLD ON THE WORD OF GOD

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Bible read-thru groups
page 3