

COVER TO COVER

THE BIBLE IN 10 MINUTES, 5 DAYS PER WEEK



10:5

We created this plan to capture the **highlights** of Scripture over the 22 weeks of the “Cover to Cover” sermon series. While this plan will not cover everything, it will give you a holistic perspective on the story of the Bible and what that means for your life today. Week 18 of the plan is below. We will update this plan each week so please check back weekly.

WEEK 18

Welcome to week eighteen of the “Cover to Cover” Bible reading plan. Last week, we finished our 17-week walk through the Old Testament by looking at the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther and how God returned his people to rebuild Jerusalem. This week, we turn the corner to the New Testament. This week, we will read about Jesus’s birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The accounts we will read come from the Gospels of Matthew and John. These books, along with the books of Mark and Luke, are four ancient biographies that were written to explain who Jesus was, what he did, and what it means to follow him. To start the week, we will focus on Jesus’ birth and some of his most well-known teachings. To end the week, we will read about Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension. Thank you again for joining us on this journey.

DAY 1 Today, we will read Matthew chapters 1 and 2. Matthew was one of Jesus’ disciples who was with him throughout his earthly ministry. Matthew wrote his gospel for a Jewish audience, which is why he began the gospel with a genealogy. This genealogy points to Jesus as the only possible descendant of King David, who was qualified to be the Messiah. Matthew’s audience would have clearly understood that he was pointing to Jesus as the promised Messiah. Today, **read Matthew 1-2**.

DAY 2 Today, we will read Matthew chapters 5 - 7. These three chapters are commonly referred to as the Sermon on the Mount and contain one of Jesus’ most authoritative teachings. The theme that connects the teaching in these chapters is Jesus identifying what it means to live in his kingdom. Today, **read Matthew 5-7**.

DAY 3 Today, we will read John chapters 16-18. These chapters contain some of Jesus’ final teachings before his death. They also contain Jesus’ prayers for his disciples and all those who follow him, including us. Chapter 18 contains John’s account of Jesus’ arrest and trial. As you read today, take time to read it slowly and consider what John wanted his readers to understand. Today, **read John 16-18**.

DAY 4 Today, we will read John chapters 19-20. Chapter 19 contains John's account of Jesus' death and burial. Chapter 20 contains John's account of Jesus' resurrection and the followers he appeared to after he rose from the grave. As with yesterday, these chapters are incredibly significant, so take the time to read them slowly and think about the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Today, **read John 19-20**.

DAY 5 Today, we will read Matthew chapter 28. This chapter contains Matthew's account of the resurrection and Jesus' final instructions to his disciples before leaving Earth. The last five verses, which contain these instructions, are often referred to as the Great Commission. As we close out this week's reading, take some time to think through the importance of these words and what they mean for us today as well. Today, **read Matthew 28**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that caught your attention from this week's sermon?
2. Why do you think the New Testament begins with the genealogy of Jesus? What significance does this have in establishing Jesus' identity?
3. How does Jesus' approach to kingship differ from earthly kings? What does this teach us about the nature of his kingdom, and how can Christians today navigate their political beliefs in light of Jesus' teachings?
4. How can we practically live out Jesus' greatest commandments to love God and love our neighbors — especially in a politically and culturally divided world?
5. For those who have been baptized, how does your baptism continue to impact your daily walk with Jesus? If you haven't been baptized, what does this step of faith mean to you?

READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 6 MONTHS!

Looking for a challenge? Follow the YouVersion "Read the Bible in Six Months" reading plan. You'll read through the **ENTIRE** Bible over the course of just six months. That works out to six chapters of reading each day a commitment, but certainly manageable, and one that's well worth making. Scan to start.

