

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 8 of the plan is below. We will update this plan each week so please check back weekly.

WEEK 8

Welcome to week eight of the “Cover to Cover” Bible reading plan. In week seven, we followed the account of God’s people taking possession of the Promised Land. This week, we will continue this story in the books of Judges and Ruth. The book of Judges contains the account of 13 judges who led God’s people during the 350 years that followed Joshua’s death. These judges were more like military or regional leaders than today’s courtroom judges.

The story in the Book of Ruth takes place during the judges’ time. It contains a powerful story of God’s providence and redemption. As we will see in the weeks ahead, Ruth is listed as one of Jesus’ ancestors.

DAY 1 Chapters 4 and 5 of Judges capture the story of Deborah, Israel’s only female judge mentioned in this book. As with many of the stories in the book of Judges, Deborah’s story is a bit gruesome. However, God used her to lead Israel toward taking the promised land. Chapter 5 contains the lyrics to a song written by Deborah about God’s victory. Today, **read Judges 4-5**.

DAY 2 Chapter 6 of Judges contains the account of Gideon. As we see throughout the book of Judges, God’s people routinely went through cycles of rebellion against God, repentance, and restoration to God. God used Gideon, a very unlikely leader, to bring his people back to him. Today, **read Judges 6**. For the full story, read chapters 7 and 8 as well.

DAY 3 Chapters 13-16 of Judges contain the account of Samson. Samson was used by God to defeat Israel’s enemies repeatedly. However, Samson was also a man driven by lust, anger, and impulse. Reading his story is a reminder that God can use people for his purposes, even people who seemingly do not prioritize God’s ways. **Read Judges 13-16** today.

DAY 4 Today, we begin the story of Ruth. As a reminder, this takes place during the time of the Judges. Ruth’s story is one of powerful love and commitment. Today, **read Ruth 1-2**.

DAY 5 Today, we finish the story of Ruth. In the midst of an otherwise difficult season in Israel’s history,

Ruth is a story of redemption that ultimately leads to the redemption made available to us through Jesus. Today, **read Ruth 3-4**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that struck you or sticks out to you from this week's sermon?
2. In the Book of Judges, we pick up the story right after the Israelites have declared, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Leading up to this week, what are some ways you have made a similar commitment to serve Jesus?
3. The Israelites adopted Canaanite practices and suffered for it. How can we ensure we are "in the world but not of the world" as Jesus instructed in John 17:14-16?
4. Despite the hard times and failures, the Book of Judges shows that even in the worst times, there is hope. How can you find hope in difficult the situations in your own life?
5. A whole generation of Israelites grew up not knowing the Lord (Judges 2:10). What steps can you take to ensure the next generation knows and follows God's teachings?

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.

