



Credits:

Our Good Lord God, Praise be to Him!

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Bible Marathon

Runner's Guide

Personal Information

Notes

Name:

I am reading together with...

My Bible marathon began on:

My Bible marathon ended on:

Notes

Milestones along the way

It is something like a marathon to read the Bible from beginning to end. Write down when you learn about some milestones along the way:
Pentateuch

Histories

Wisdom

Prophets

The Apocrypha

The New Testament

Gospels

Paul's Letters

Books of the Old Testament

Genesis	Jeremiah
Exodus	Lamentations
Leviticus	Ezekiel
Numbers	Daniel
Deuteronomy	Hosea
Joshua	Joel
Judges	Amos
Ruth	Obadiah
1 Samuel	Jonah
2 Samuel	Micah
1 Kings	Nahum
2 Kings	Habakkuk
1 Chronicles	Zephaniah
2 Chronicles	Haggai
Ezra	Zechariah
Nehemiah	Malachi
Esther	
Job	
Psalms	
Proverbs	
Ecclesiastes	
Song of Songs	
Isaiah	

tations of the passages we are reading. We are each running our own run with assumptions of our own. So that you can have a sense for how to get into the biblical story, you will benefit from a short introduction to the material for home reading.



And so we begin--Genesis means beginning, Genesis 1-11, with Adam and Even, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood and the tower of Babel. Then history begins with Abraham, Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, and the story of Joseph. Have a good trip!

you, if you find you need help. These should be used when it is necessary.

As we begin our marathon:

1) We have a long trip to make through the Bible. A long trip lies before us, but we have stations marked out along the way. Each 14 days we will meet here in this place and “tank up” for the next part of the journey.

2) We will experience crises along the way. If you think “I will not make it,” just remember, there's no one telling you that you must make it through, but we can encourage you.

3) There can be Scripture that seems very difficult to pass by. Does it really say that, you will ask yourself. A crisis along the way may not come you. It can happen for you because the Bible "strains" one muscle, for another, because the biblical texts show a side of God which we do not normally associate with the picture we have of God.

4) There will be passages we can run through easily, but there can also be very difficult ones that need more thought, or rereading again and again before we understand them. Runners in a marathon say there is no shame in turning around, quitting, or not making it through the marathon. It is a good rule for us here. There is no shame in not completing the run, but we can help each other make it through. This is why we need to gather every fourteen days for fellowship and reading aloud and so that we can encourage each other and send each other forward into the next lesson.

How will we do that?

After we have met together for a short devotional, we will read the selected passages together and talk about what we have read. Find someone, your pastor, or bible teacher in the congregation, to give a very short introduction to what you are about to read at home over the next fourteen days. These should not be highly intellectual and difficult interpre-

Books of the New Testament

Matthew	2 John
Mark	3 John
Luke	Jude
John	Revelation
Acts	
Romans	
1 Corinthians	
2 Corinthians	
Galatians	
Ephesians	
Philippians	
Colossians	
1 Thessalonians	
2 Thessalonians	
1 Timothy	
2 Timothy	
Titus	
Philemon	
Hebrews	
James	
1 Peter	
2 Peter	
1 John	

Reading Plan

Lesson 1

Reading together: Genesis 1-3

Reading alone: Genesis 4-48

Lesson 2

Reading together: Genesis 49-50

Reading alone: Exodus and Leviticus 1-25

Lesson 3

Reading together: Leviticus 26-27

Reading alone: Numbers and Deuteronomy 1-32:44

Lesson 4

Reading together: Deuteronomy 32:45-34:12

Reading alone: Joshua and Judges

Lesson 5

Reading together: Ruth

Reading alone: I Samuel and 2 Samuel 1-22

Lesson 6

Reading together: 2 Samuel 23-24

Reading alone: I Kings, II Kings 1-23:30

Lesson 7

Reading together: 2 Kings 23:31-25:30

Reading alone: 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah 1-11

Lesson 8

Reading together: Nehemiah 12-13

Reading alone: Esther and Job 1-39

LESSON I

Hymn: "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" LBW 234

So, now we've begun a year's trip through the Bible, which should be concluded in by the end of the year. The idea is to read through the Bible in its entirety during the year so that we can begin the new year with the closing vision of John's Revelation of a "new heaven and a new earth."

There is something about a marathon that we should mark as we begin:

- 1) You can get a high from running a marathon, so that you believe you can do more than you thought. You can also overestimate your strength, so you have to quit the run before you reach the end. This is no reason to be ashamed.
- 2) You can "hit a wall," as the language of the marathon puts it. This means that you can have a serious crisis during your reading that will hurt to go through.
- 3) You can think many clear thoughts while making a long run. Or, you can be empty of thoughts. You can experience a new side of yourself. You can learn to understand your own boundaries for good or ill.
- 4) You can experience periods where you don't see clearly what you are in the middle of, small hindrances that can become great so that you do not appear to be able to overcome them.

A marathon is your own run. You compete against yourself, trying to find your own pace.

1) But while that is true, it is also good to know that in spite of all this, you run together with others. You find your own tempo, but you also have others around you most of the time.

2) On the way you will find water stops. There are stations along the way where you can stop to "tank up." It is important to "tank up."

3) Along the way are people who will encourage and support

In the marathon together

Runners in the Bible marathon agree to individual reading over a two week period. Every two weeks participants will gather together to read together. When participants gather together they sing hymns, pray and read together.



This service is in keeping with Psalm 119:12, “Praise be to you O LORD; teach me your decrees.” We need the Holy Spirit to enlighten our study.

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we understand what God has freely given us.”

1 Corinthians 2:124

Luther argued that the wisdom of the Bible is hidden from those who are wise but revealed to those who are “ready, prepared, eager always to be taught, judged and to hear, rather than to teach, judge and be heard.” Luther’s *First Lectures on the Psalms, II*, 500

Order of service

Prelude
Greeting
Hymn
Reading together
Hymn
Prayer
Benediction
Postlude

Lesson 9

Reading together: Job 40-42
Reading alone: Psalms 1-72

Lesson 10

Reading together: Psalms 73-75
Reading alone: Psalms 76-145

Lesson 11

Reading together: Psalms 146-150
Reading alone: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon 1-5

Lesson 12

Reading together: Song of Solomon 6-8
Reading alone: Isaiah 1-37:20

Lesson 13

Reading together: Isaiah 37:21-39:8
Reading alone: Isaiah 40-65

Lessons 14

Reading together: Isaiah 66
Reading alone: Jeremiah 1-34

Lessons 15

Reading together: Jeremiah 35-36
Reading alone: Jeremiah 37-52 and Lamentations 1-3

Lessons 16

Reading together: Lamentations 4-5

Reading alone: Ezekiel 1-46:15

Lessons 17

Reading together: Ezekiel 46:16-48:35

Reading alone: Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah

Lesson 18

Reading together: Jonah

Reading alone: Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah

Lessons 19

Reading together: Malachi

Reading alone: Matthew and Mark 1-14:52

Lessons 20

Reading together: Mark 14:53-16:2-0

Reading alone: Luke and John 1:19:24

Lessons 21

Reading together: John 19:25-21:25

Reading alone: Acts, Romans 1-13

Lessons 22

Reading together: Romans 14-16

Reading alone: 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians

World's most asked for book

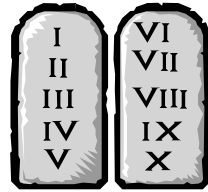
It has been said of the Bible that it is the only book that has been the world's bestseller for 2000 years. The oldest part of the Bible was written more than 3000 years ago, the youngest is almost 2000 years old. But the Bible speaks daily to people around the world today. That makes it the most asked for book in the world. It is being printed in new versions and editions and translations into ever more languages. Just a few numbers can illustrate that:

- 90% of the people in the world have access to the Bible or part of the Bible in the language they understand
- At the beginning of the year 2000 the entire Bible had been translated into 383 languages.
- The New Testament has been translated into 987 languages. Language experts think there are 6500 languages in the world, so there are still lots of people who do not have the possibility of reading the bible in their own mother tongue.

• The Bible is almost a best seller in China. The Bible publisher Amity celebrated the publication of 25,000,000 Bibles printed since it was founded in 1987.

The United Bible Societies printed and distributed in the year 2000 more than 23 million Bibles and over 24 million New Testaments.

Where is it?



The creation: Genesis 1:1-2:4

Adam and Eve: Genesis 2:4-3:24

The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:1-17

Benediction: Numbers 6:22-27

King David: 1 and 2 Samuel

History of Israel: 1 and 2 Kings and Chronicles

Jesus' birth: Luke 2:1-20

Jesus and the little children: Mark 10:13-16

Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:1-7:28

Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-12

The little Bible: John 3:16

John the Baptist: Matthew 3:1-12

Temptation in the wilderness: Matthew 4:1-11

The New Commandment of Love: Matthew 22:34-39

The Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12

The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32

Entry into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:1-11

The Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:26-29

Crucifixion: Luke 23:26-38

Resurrection: Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-10

Pentecost: Acts 2:1-13

Paul's conversion: Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-30

Lessons 23

Reading together: Colossians

Reading alone: 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews 1-11

Lessons 24

Reading together: Hebrews 12-13

Reading alone: James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3, John.

Lessons 25

Reading together: Jude

Reading alone: Revelation 1-20

Lessons 26

Reading together: Revelation 21-22

Conclusion

The Bible in Today's Language

- There's nothing new under the sun
- Handwriting on the wall
- Crumbs from the table
- Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.

Write down some you've found during the marathon:

The Center of the Bible

The Bible is a collection of many different kinds of writings: History, law, poetry, prophecy, drama, stories, letters--all are represented in the library of the Bible. Martin Luther thought that the Bible had to be understood from its clear center, Jesus Christ. Take Christ out of the Bible--and there is nothing for you to find in it, he said. Jesus Christ is the prism through which all the rest of the Bible is to be understood.

On the next page you will see a little collection of Bible verses, which shed light on the Bible as a whole.

During the Bible marathon you will surely find other verses you will want to remember. Write them down here: