

STORYLINE: THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

JANUARY 2026

Beginnings: Creation, Fall, and Covenant Promises

How We Built This Plan

Chronological vs. Canonical: Most Bible reading plans follow the canonical order (Genesis to Revelation). We've arranged Scripture *chronologically*—in the order events actually happened. This helps you understand *when* and *why* things occurred. For example, you'll read Job during the patriarchal period (where it belongs historically), and prophets alongside the kings they spoke to. This gives you the flow of history, not just the order books appear in your Bible.

Inductive Method: We use Howard Hendricks' proven inductive approach: Observe (What does it say?), Interpret (What does it mean?), and Apply (How does this change me?). This isn't just reading—it's studying. You're learning to think biblically, not just consume information. Other devotional plans often give you someone else's thoughts about a passage. We're teaching you to engage Scripture directly.

Daily OT + NT Balance: Unlike plans that front-load the Old Testament (leaving you exhausted by March), we give you *both* Old and New Testament every single day. This keeps Jesus and the Gospel present throughout the entire year. You're always seeing how the Old Testament points forward to Christ while reading about Christ Himself. This daily balance prevents burnout and maintains theological clarity.

Complete Scripture Exposure: Our goal is simple: expose you to the *entire* Bible in one year. Not just highlights, not just favorite passages—all of it. Every book. Every major story. Every theological movement. You'll read approximately 3-4 chapters daily (about 20 minutes). By December 31, you'll have read the whole counsel of God.

Christ-Centered Devotional: This plan doesn't just give you historical chronology—it helps you see how everything points to Jesus. Every Reflect and Explore section intentionally connects the passage to the unified story leading to Christ. We want your head and heart engaged. Information without transformation is just religious knowledge. Our prayer is that God's Word changes you.

This isn't just another reading plan. It's a tool for deep, sustained engagement with Scripture. Welcome to the journey.

Monthly Overview

We begin where God begins—with creation, the fall into sin, and God's covenant promises to rescue humanity. From the very first pages, we see God's plan to restore what was broken. As we read Genesis, we'll also begin Mark's Gospel, seeing immediately how Jesus is the fulfillment of these ancient promises. We'll encounter Job's suffering in the patriarchal period, and by month's end, we'll see God's people enslaved in Egypt, setting up the great Exodus deliverance.

How to Use This Plan

READ (20 minutes daily): Complete the daily Scripture readings in this order: Old Testament first, then New Testament, then the Psalm. Read them slowly. Let God's Word speak to you before jumping to the questions. This plan takes you through the entire Bible chronologically in one year while keeping Jesus present every single day.

REFLECT (Inductive Method): Use the three questions based on Howard Hendricks' proven approach: **Observe** (What does it say?), **Interpret** (What does it mean?), and **Apply** (How does this change me?). These aren't just questions to answer quickly—they're designed to help you think deeply about what you've read. Take your time. Journal your thoughts. Let the Scripture transform you.

EXPLORE (Optional Depth): For those wanting to dig deeper, each day includes cross-references, thematic connections, and theological insights. These help you see how today's reading fits into the unified story of Scripture leading to Jesus. You don't have to do this section, but it's there if you want more.

Our Approach: This isn't just another 'read the Bible in a year' plan. We've arranged Scripture chronologically so you understand *when* and *why* events happened. We balance Old and New Testament daily so Jesus is always present. And we use the inductive method to help you truly understand and apply God's Word, not just check boxes. This is about transformation, not information.

DAY 1: CREATION AND NEW CREATION

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 1-2

New Testament: Mark 1:1-20

Psalm: Psalm 1

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What patterns do you notice in God's creative work in Genesis 1-2? How does Mark introduce Jesus in relation to creation?

Interpret: How does the repeated phrase 'it was good' in Genesis shape our understanding of God's original design? How does Mark present Jesus as bringing new creation?

Apply: How should knowing you're created 'in God's image' affect how you see yourself and others today?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Compare Genesis 1:1-3 with John 1:1-5. Explore the seven-day structure and its theological significance. Note how Mark immediately shows Jesus' authority over creation (calling disciples, casting out demons). The Spirit descends on Jesus at baptism just as the Spirit hovered over creation waters.

DAY 2: SIN ENTERS, HOPE PROMISED

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 3-4

New Testament: Mark 1:21-45

Psalm: Psalm 2

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What are the immediate consequences of sin in Genesis 3-4? How does Jesus confront evil spirits and disease in Mark 1?

Interpret: What does God's promise in Genesis 3:15 reveal about His plan to defeat the serpent? How is Jesus already fulfilling this in Mark's opening chapter?

Apply: Where are you most tempted to hide from God or blame others like Adam and Eve did?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 3:15 (the proto-gospel) connects to Galatians 4:4-5 and Romans 16:20. Explore the progressive spread of sin from individual (Adam) to family (Cain) to society (Lamech). Jesus' authority over demons and disease shows the reversal beginning—He's crushing the serpent's head.

DAY 3: JUDGMENT AND GRACE: THE FLOOD

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 5-7

New Testament: Mark 2

Psalm: Psalm 8

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How is Noah described in Genesis 6:9? How do religious leaders respond to Jesus in Mark 2?

Interpret: What does the flood teach about both God's justice and His mercy? How does Jesus claim authority that only God has in forgiving sins?

Apply: When facing corruption around you, how can Noah's faithfulness in his generation encourage you?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Compare the flood (Genesis 7) with 2 Peter 3:3-13 and 1 Peter 3:20-21. Explore covenant theology—God saves through one faithful family (8 people in the ark). Jesus claims to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7), something only God can do, which is why the scribes are shocked.

DAY 4: BABEL AND GOD'S CALL

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 8-11

New Testament: Mark 3

Psalm: Psalm 19

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What goes wrong at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11? Who does Jesus choose to be with Him in Mark 3:13-19?

Interpret: How does God respond to human pride at Babel? What kind of kingdom is Jesus building compared to Babel's 'make a name for ourselves'?

Apply: Are you building anything for your own 'name' and glory rather than God's?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Babel (Genesis 11) is reversed at Pentecost (Acts 2). Explore the genealogy from Shem to Abram (Genesis 11:10-26) showing God's plan continuing despite human rebellion. Jesus creates a new community of 12, symbolizing a new Israel being formed.

DAY 5: ABRAHAM'S CALL AND COVENANT

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 12-15

New Testament: Mark 4:1-34

Psalm: Psalm 23

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does God promise Abraham in Genesis 12 and 15? What do Jesus' parables reveal about how God's kingdom grows?

Interpret: How is Abraham's faith tested and demonstrated? How does the kingdom grow according to Jesus—immediately or gradually?

Apply: What promise of God do you need to trust today, even without seeing its fulfillment?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 15:6 with Romans 4:1-25 and Galatians 3:6-9. Explore covenant structure—God initiates, promises, and personally guarantees (passing between the pieces alone). The kingdom starts small like a mustard seed but grows beyond expectation, just as Abraham's descendants will.

DAY 6: IMPATIENCE AND SODOM'S JUDGMENT

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 16-19

New Testament: Mark 4:35-5:20

Psalm: Psalm 27

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens when Abraham and Sarah try to 'help' God's plan in Genesis 16? What forces does Jesus have power over in Mark 4:35-5:20?

Interpret: What do we learn about God's character from both the destruction of Sodom and His rescue of Lot? How does Jesus demonstrate authority over chaos, demons, and death itself?

Apply: Where are you tempted to take control instead of waiting on God's timing?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 18:14 ('Is anything too hard for the LORD?') with Luke 1:37. Explore the tension between God's sovereignty and human participation. Jesus' power over storms, demons (Legion), and death shows complete authority over all forces that threaten humanity.

DAY 7: TESTING ABRAHAM'S FAITH

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 20-23

New Testament: Mark 5:21-6:6

Psalm: Psalm 34

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does God test Abraham in Genesis 22? How do people in Jesus' hometown respond to Him in Mark 6:1-6?

Interpret: What does Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac reveal about faith? Why is Jesus rejected by those who know Him best?

Apply: What is God asking you to surrender in trust, even when it doesn't make sense?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 22 (Abraham offers Isaac) with John 3:16 (God offers Jesus) and Hebrews 11:17-19. Explore the ram 'provided' (Genesis 22:8, 14) pointing to God's ultimate provision. Familiarity can breed contempt—those who watched Jesus grow up can't see who He really is.

DAY 8: FINDING A WIFE FOR ISAAC

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 24-26

New Testament: Mark 6:7-29

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-22

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does God guide Abraham's servant to find Rebekah? How does Jesus send out the Twelve in Mark 6?

Interpret: What role does faithful service play in God's unfolding plan (Genesis 24)? What authority does Jesus give His disciples?

Apply: How do you discern God's guidance in your daily decisions?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 24:12-27 (divine providence) with Proverbs 3:5-6. Explore the servant's prayer and God's specific answer as a model of dependence. Jesus multiplies His ministry through the Twelve, giving them authority over demons—the kingdom expands through sent ones.

DAY 9: JACOB AND ESAU: DECEPTION'S COST

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 27-29

New Testament: Mark 6:30-56

Psalm: Psalm 37:23-40

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Jacob's deception in Genesis 27 ultimately cost him? What compassion does Jesus show to the crowds in Mark 6?

Interpret: How does God work through Jacob despite his deception? What moves Jesus to feed the 5,000?

Apply: When have you tried to manipulate circumstances instead of trusting God?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 27 with Malachi 1:2-3 and Romans 9:10-13. Explore God's sovereignty—He chooses Jacob—but doesn't excuse Jacob's sin, which brings family division. Jesus feeds 5,000, showing He is the bread of life who satisfies.

DAY 10: JACOB'S HOUSEHOLD GROWS

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 30-31

New Testament: Mark 7:1-30

Psalm: Psalm 40

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How do family dynamics unfold in Genesis 30-31? What does Jesus teach about what truly defiles in Mark 7?

Interpret: How does God bless Jacob despite the household dysfunction? What matters more than external religious observance?

Apply: Is your faith more about external observance or heart transformation?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Mark 7:6-7 with Isaiah 29:13. Explore the 12 tribes beginning amid conflict and favoritism. Jesus expands His ministry to Gentiles (Syrophenician woman), showing the kingdom isn't limited by ethnicity.

DAY 11: WRESTLING WITH GOD

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 32-34

New Testament: Mark 7:31-8:21

Psalms: Psalm 42

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens when Jacob wrestles with God at Peniel? Why does Jesus sigh in Mark 8:12?

Interpret: What does Jacob's name change to 'Israel' signify? What are the Pharisees demanding, and why does it grieve Jesus?

Apply: What are you wrestling with God about? Will you let Him bless you even if it costs you?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 32:30 with Exodus 33:20 and John 1:18. Explore Jacob's limp as a permanent reminder of God's power. Jesus feeds 4,000 (Gentiles) echoing the 5,000 (Jews)—His provision is for all peoples.

DAY 12: JOSEPH'S DREAMS BEGIN

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 35-37

New Testament: Mark 8:22-9:1

Psalms: Psalm 46

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How is Joseph described in Genesis 37? What does Peter confess about Jesus in Mark 8:29?

Interpret: What do Joseph's dreams reveal about God's plan? What does it mean that Jesus is 'the Christ'?

Apply: How do you respond when God's plan for your life seems to be going completely sideways?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 37 with Genesis 50:20. Explore Joseph as a 'type' of Christ—loved by father, rejected by brothers, sold for silver, suffers unjustly. Jesus predicts His death and resurrection (Mark 8:31), which Peter can't accept.

DAY 13: JOSEPH IN PRISON

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 38-40

New Testament: Mark 9:2-32

Psalm: Psalm 51

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does God work through Joseph's circumstances in prison? What do Peter, James, and John see on the mountain?

Interpret: What does Joseph's integrity in Potiphar's house reveal? What does the Transfiguration reveal about Jesus' identity?

Apply: How do you maintain integrity when no one is watching and when it costs you?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 39:9 with 1 Corinthians 10:13. Explore Joseph repeatedly acknowledging 'God' even in prison. The Transfiguration connects Jesus to Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets)—He fulfills both.

DAY 14: JOSEPH ELEVATED AND TESTS HIS BROTHERS

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 41-42

New Testament: Mark 9:33-50

Psalm: Psalm 62

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does God elevate Joseph from prison to palace? What does Jesus teach about greatness in Mark 9?

Interpret: What has God been preparing Joseph for during his suffering? How does Jesus define true greatness in His kingdom?

Apply: What platform or influence has God given you to serve others rather than yourself?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 41:16, 39-40 with Daniel 2:27-28. Explore Joseph giving God credit for interpretation. Jesus welcomes children and calls for radical discipleship—cut off anything that causes sin.

DAY 15: JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 43-45

New Testament: Mark 10:1-31

Psalm: Psalm 63

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Joseph test his brothers before revealing himself? What does Jesus teach about marriage and wealth?

Interpret: What does Joseph's forgiveness reveal about God's sovereign purposes? What keeps people from entering God's kingdom?

Apply: Who do you need to forgive, trusting that God has used even painful circumstances for good?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 45:5-8 with Romans 8:28. Explore Joseph's statement 'God sent me' showing divine sovereignty. Jesus challenges our security in earthly things—'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom!'

DAY 16: JACOB'S FAMILY MOVES TO EGYPT

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 46-48

New Testament: Mark 10:32-52

Psalm: Psalm 66

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does God promise Jacob at Beersheba in Genesis 46? What does Jesus predict for the third time in Mark 10?

Interpret: How does God preserve His covenant promises by bringing Jacob's family to Egypt? What does Jesus' third passion prediction reveal about His mission?

Apply: What transition is God calling you to make in faith?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 46:3-4 with Exodus 1:7. Explore the 70 who go to Egypt will multiply into a nation. Jesus heads toward Jerusalem and the cross with determination—this is why He came.

DAY 17: JACOB'S BLESSINGS AND DEATH

■ READ

Old Testament: Genesis 49-50

New Testament: Mark 11:1-26

Psalm: Psalm 72

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Jacob prophesy over Judah in Genesis 49:8-12? How does Jesus enter Jerusalem in Mark 11?

Interpret: Who is 'the Lion of the tribe of Judah' (Genesis 49:9)? Why does Jesus curse the fig tree?

Apply: Are you bearing fruit that matches your profession of faith in Jesus?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Genesis 49:10 with Revelation 5:5. Explore the scepter belongs to Judah's line—pointing to the Messiah. The cursed fig tree represents Israel's fruitlessness despite their religious appearance.

DAY 18: JOB'S TESTING BEGINS

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 1-4

New Testament: Mark 11:27-12:17

Psalm: Psalm 73

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does God say about Job in Job 1:8? What authority does Jesus claim in the temple in Mark 11?

Interpret: What does Job's response to devastating loss reveal about true worship? How does Jesus handle challenges to His authority?

Apply: How do you respond when suffering seems random or undeserved?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 1:21 with Philippians 4:11-13. Explore Job is placed early (patriarchal era, likely contemporary with Abraham). Jesus operates with divine authority that religious leaders lack—He is the son, not merely a servant.

DAY 19: FRIENDS' FIRST SPEECHES

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 5-8

New Testament: Mark 12:18-44

Psalms: Psalm 77

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What do Job's friends assume about the cause of his suffering? What question do the Sadducees pose to Jesus?

Interpret: Are Job's friends correct that all suffering results from personal sin? What does Jesus teach about resurrection and the greatest commandment?

Apply: Do you ever make Job's friends' mistake of oversimplifying others' pain?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 5:17 with Hebrews 12:5-11. Explore the difference between discipline and punishment. Jesus affirms resurrection and summarizes all Scripture: Love God, love neighbor. Note the widow's sacrificial giving.

DAY 20: JOB LONGS FOR A MEDIATOR

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 9-12

New Testament: Mark 13:1-31

Psalms: Psalm 84

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Job desperately long for in Job 9:33? What does Jesus predict about the temple in Mark 13?

Interpret: Why does Job need a mediator between himself and God? What signs will precede Jesus' return?

Apply: Who is your mediator before God? Do you have one?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 9:33 with 1 Timothy 2:5-6. Explore Job wants an arbiter between himself and God—Jesus is that mediator. Mark 13 warns of tribulation but promises Christ's return and the gathering of the elect.

DAY 21: JOB DECLARES HIS HOPE

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 13-16

New Testament: Mark 13:32-14:11

Psalm: Psalm 86

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: Even in agony, what hope does Job express in Job 13:15? How does Jesus prepare for His betrayal?

Interpret: What does Job's persevering faith reveal? Why does Judas betray Jesus for money?

Apply: In your darkest moments, what truth about God anchors you?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 13:15 with Romans 8:18. Explore Job's faith: 'Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.' Jesus knows betrayal is coming but moves forward—the woman's anointing contrasts with Judas's greed.

DAY 22: MORE DIALOGUES WITH FRIENDS

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 17-20

New Testament: Mark 14:12-42

Psalm: Psalm 88

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What accusations do Job's friends make? What does Jesus institute at the Last Supper?

Interpret: Why can't Job's friends bring him comfort? What does Jesus' anguish in Gethsemane reveal about His full humanity?

Apply: When have you received unhelpful 'comfort' from well-meaning people?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 19:25-27 with John 11:25-26. Explore Job anticipates resurrection and a living Redeemer. Jesus institutes the new covenant in His blood and submits to the Father's will in the garden.

DAY 23: JOB OBSERVES THE WICKED PROSPERING

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 21-24

New Testament: Mark 14:43-72

Psalm: Psalm 90

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Job observe about the wicked prospering in this life? How is Jesus treated at His trial?

Interpret: Why doesn't God immediately punish all evil? What does Jesus' silence before false witnesses mean?

Apply: How do you trust God when justice seems delayed?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 21 with Psalm 73. Explore the prosperity of the wicked is temporary—their end is destruction. Jesus fulfills Isaiah 53:7, silent before accusers. Peter denies Jesus three times as predicted.

DAY 24: JOB'S FINAL DEFENSE

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 25-30

New Testament: Mark 15:1-32

Psalm: Psalm 91

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Job describe his former honor versus his current shame? What mockery does Jesus endure at the cross?

Interpret: What has Job lost? What does Jesus' crucifixion cost Him?

Apply: What would you be willing to lose for the sake of righteousness?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 29-30 (from honor to shame) with Philippians 2:5-11 and Isaiah 53. Explore Job experiences a taste of what Jesus fully embraces—suffering as the righteous one.

DAY 25: ELIHU SPEAKS, JESUS DIES

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 31-34

New Testament: Mark 15:33-47

Psalms: Psalm 93

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What new perspective does young Elihu offer? What happens when Jesus dies on the cross?

Interpret: How is God's sovereignty different from arbitrary power, according to Elihu? What does the torn temple curtain signify?

Apply: Do you approach God carelessly or with appropriate reverence?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 33:14-30 with Hebrews 12:5-11. Explore Elihu points toward God's redemptive purposes in suffering. The veil's tearing opens direct access to God through Jesus' death.

DAY 26: ELIHU PREPARES FOR GOD'S VOICE

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 35-37

New Testament: Mark 16

Psalms: Psalm 95

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Elihu say about God's transcendence and justice? What do the women discover at the tomb?

Interpret: Why is God not obligated to explain Himself to humans? What does the empty tomb prove about Jesus?

Apply: Are you demanding God justify Himself, or trusting His character revealed in Christ?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 36:26 with Isaiah 55:8-9. Explore God's ways are higher than ours. The resurrection vindicates everything Jesus claimed—He is Lord. The original ending of Mark is abrupt and fear-filled, pointing to the mystery and awe of resurrection.

DAY 27: GOD SPEAKS: CREATION'S WONDER

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 38-39

New Testament: Matthew 1

Psalm: Psalm 96

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What questions does God ask Job from the whirlwind? How does Matthew introduce Jesus' genealogy?

Interpret: What is God's point in describing His creative power? Why does Matthew's genealogy matter?

Apply: When you question God, how big is the God you're questioning?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 38:4-7 with Proverbs 8:22-31. Explore God asserts His sovereign creative power. Matthew shows Jesus as fulfillment of Abraham's covenant and David's throne—He's the rightful King.

DAY 28: JOB REPENTS AND IS RESTORED

■ READ

Old Testament: Job 40-42

New Testament: Matthew 2

Psalm: Psalm 97

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Job respond when God speaks? How does God protect baby Jesus from Herod?

Interpret: What does Job's restoration teach about God's character? Why does Herod fear a child born 'King of the Jews'?

Apply: When have you had to repent of speaking about God presumptuously?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Job 42:5-6 with Isaiah 6:5. Explore seeing God changes everything—Job moves from hearing about God to seeing Him. Jesus is the true Israel, recapitulating their story (into Egypt, out of Egypt). Herod's massacre parallels Pharaoh's slaughter of Hebrew boys.

DAY 29: ISRAEL ENSLAVED, MOSES CALLED

■ READ

Old Testament: Exodus 1-3

New Testament: Matthew 3

Psalm: Psalm 98

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does God hear and remember in Exodus 2:23-25? Who appears at Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3?

Interpret: What do God's names—"I AM WHO I AM"—reveal about His nature? What does the voice from heaven declare about Jesus?

Apply: When God calls you to a task, what excuses do you make like Moses did?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Exodus 3:14 with John 8:58. Explore Jesus will claim the divine name 'I AM.' His baptism inaugurates His public ministry, with the Spirit descending and the Father's voice affirming Him as beloved Son.

DAY 30: MOSES RETURNS, JESUS TESTED

■ READ

Old Testament: Exodus 4-6

New Testament: Matthew 4

Psalm: Psalm 99

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does God confirm His call to Moses with signs? How does Jesus resist Satan's temptations?

Interpret: What signs does God give Moses to authenticate his mission? What weapon does Jesus use against the devil?

Apply: What confirmation do you need to obey God, and is it enough?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Exodus 4:22-23 ('Israel is my firstborn son') with Matthew 3:17. Explore Israel is God's corporate son who failed; Jesus is the true Son who succeeds where Israel failed in the wilderness. Jesus defeats Satan with Scripture.

DAY 31: PLAGUES BEGIN, SERMON BEGINS

■ READ

Old Testament: Exodus 7-9

New Testament: Matthew 5:1-26

Psalm: Psalm 100

■ REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Pharaoh's heart respond to the first plagues? What does Jesus teach about kingdom righteousness?

Interpret: What is God demonstrating through the plagues against Egypt? How does Jesus intensify the Law's demands?

Apply: Where is your heart hard toward God's clear commands?

■ EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Exodus 9:16 with Romans 9:17. Explore the plagues systematically assault Egypt's gods, showing YHWH's supremacy. Jesus calls for heart righteousness, not mere external compliance—the Sermon on the Mount presents kingdom ethics that fulfill the Law.

About This Plan

This Bible reading plan was created by Storyline Missions to help you engage deeply with God's Word throughout 2026. We believe the Bible tells one unified story that leads to Jesus, and we've designed this plan to help you see that story unfold chronologically while maintaining daily balance between Old and New Testaments.

Storyline Missions partners with indigenous church planters reaching unreached people groups around the world. We believe God's story of redemption extends to every tribe, tongue, and nation. Learn more at storylinemissions.org

May God's Word transform you this year.