

1. What will this year's Bible-reading plan cover?

This reading plan will take us through **Matthew 1:1–8:17**, alongside **selected Old Testament passages**.

2. Why are there Old Testament readings mixed in?

Matthew is a gospel that very intentionally (and regularly) quotes the Old Testament. Our Old Testament readings are actually related to the Matthew reading the week before (e.g. Week 3's Isaiah 7:1-17 reading is actually related to Matthew 1:22-23 from Week 2's reading).

The Old Testament readings help us **slow down**, appreciate the **biblical background**, and gain a richer wonder for the Jesus of the gospel.

3. Why are we reading only one passage a week?

Intentionally so. This plan is designed to help us **slow down**, to **chew on God's Word**, and to **linger with the text** rather than rush through it. The purpose of this Bible-reading plan is not to cover ground in our Bible-reading – but to fellowship with God over His word.

4. How do I use Reflection question #1?

The first reflection question is “What do you see?” Ask the Lord, “Lord, what do You want me to see?” **Then keep a look out** as a word, a phrase, an action, a name – anything at all – may stand out or catch your attention.

5. How do I use Reflection question #2?

The second reflection question is “What does it mean?” Something from the passage has caught your attention. Now ask the Lord, “Lord, what does this mean?”

Why does the Bible include this detail? **What is significant about how this particular word or phrase is used in the Bible?** How does this word or phrase relate to the larger passage? You may want to pause at this point to refer to a commentary or to do a deeper study.

6. How do I use Reflection question #3?

The third reflection question is “Why does this matter?” At this point, ask the Lord, “Lord, why does this matter to my life? What does this have to do with my faith?”

Let the Lord lead you to make sense of what you've observed from His word: **What reality, or principle, or truth is He leading you to wrestle with?**

7. How do I use Reflection question #4?

The fourth reflection question is “How do you apply this?” Ask the Lord, “Lord, how should I practically apply this reality / principle/ truth in my life today?”

God’s word is always ready for action. How is He leading you to put His word into practice today?

8. How do I use Reflection question #5?

The final reflection question is “What are you missing?” Take a pause and ask the Lord, “Lord, what am I still missing?”

Don’t be too quick to take the application and go. The Lord has something more He wants to say to you. Perhaps He’s leading you to consider the condition of your heart. Or to deal with an underlying sin or idol. Or to cling to a promise He has given you. Have you seen your great need for Jesus and the cross – today?

Don’t rush off! Stay a while longer. Listen. **Let Him lead you to rest in Jesus.**

9. What if I can’t cover all 5 reflection questions each day?

That’s perfectly fine! Pick off where you left off the next day. The goal is not to finish something – but to relate to the God who loves us and has saved us.

10. What if I do cover all 5 reflection questions in my first day of the week?

Well done! Come back to the passage again **with fresh eyes** and **with a fresh dependence on God**. Ask Him to lead that time of relating to Him over His word. Don’t worry – there’s always more to glean from His word.