

TAKE UP YOUR SWORD

"If reading the Bible can be compared to cruising the width of a clear, sparkling lake in a motorboat, studying the Bible is like slowly crossing that same lake in a glass-bottomed boat. The motorboat crossing provides an overview of the lake and a swift, passing view of its depths. The glass-bottomed boat of study, however, takes you beneath the surface of Scripture for an unhurried look of clarity and detail that's normally missed by those who simply read the text. As author Jerry Bridges puts it, 'Reading gives us breadth, but study gives us depth.'"

Don Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS

our Take Up Your Sword reading plans have taken more of the "motorboat" approach. We have covered the storyline books of the Old Testament this year and in the previous year, the entire New Testament. We would like to propose more of a "glass-bottomed boat" Bible reading plan for 2020.

Each month, we will immerse ourselves in one chapter (or section) of the New Testament for the entire month, for the sake of slower study, meditation, and prayerful reflection. You could approach this in more than one way. Most sections are short enough to be able to read in their entirety in one sitting. You could read the entire section once a day and reflect and pray over whatever stands out each day. Or you could work your way through verse by verse, phrase by phrase, one day at a time.

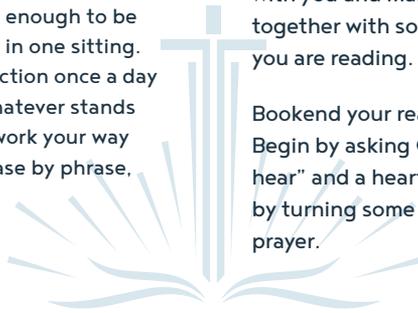
HELPFUL TIPS

Remind yourself weekly (even daily!) that the end goal is not to check off boxes or successfully execute a reading plan, but to hear God's voice and know Him more.

Keep a pen and paper at hand to write down questions, observations, thoughts for further meditation and prayer, etc.

Do this in community. Invite your spouse, your roommates, your kids, a friend, or a younger believer to commit to reading along with you and make plans to talk and pray together with some regularity about what you are reading.

Bookend your reading time with prayer. Begin by asking God to give you "ears to hear" and a heart to trust and obey. Finish by turning some of what you have read into prayer.



JANUARY	Colossians 1
FEBRUARY	Colossians 3:1-17
MARCH	Matthew 5-7
APRIL	Luke 22-24
MAY	1 Corinthians 15
JUNE	Philippians 2:1-18

JULY	Galatians 4
AUGUST	John 15-17
SEPTEMBER	Ephesians 2
OCTOBER	Ephesians 4
NOVEMBER	Romans 8
DECEMBER	Luke 1-2