

**B.I.B.L.E.**  
**“Big Picture, the Overview”**

The Bible is considered the basic tool for the Christian faith. Beginning with our Jewish heritage, we have a “book” that spans thousands of years. From its pages we sing, teach, and set our basic understandings of morals and ethics. We depend upon the Bible to make sense of an ever-changing world. We have BIBLE studies, Vacation BIBLE School, Sunday school and small groups and worship each week using this “book” of books. Over the next few weeks, this study guide will look a little different. Instead of daily readings, there will be a series of readings from different books for us to choose from depending on the level of reading we are choosing to do for the B.I.B.L.E. reading challenge. You will have received the bookmark/tracking card or if you have not, please contact the church and we can mail you one or you may pick one up at the church. You may also download the bookmark from the church website. There are three levels to our challenge, each level expects us to read six days a week. The challenge can be done by any age, and if a child is not old enough to read, a parent or other adult or youth can read to them from a children’s bible. The Bronze Level is 10 minutes a day, the Silver is 30 minutes a day and the Gold is 45 minutes a day. Over the course of August, we will have an opportunity to read from many different books and maybe discover something new for our faith and practice. I look forward to reading and participating in this challenge with you. - Pastor Cindy

**PRAYER**

Holy God, thank you for the gift of our Bible. Open the eyes of our understanding and prepare our hearts by the power of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your Word with much joy and rejoicing and may discover a deeper love and deeper understanding of who You are. Bless our reading each day, for we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

This week’s readings will move through the whole Bible. There are a variety of readings, both short and long to pair with the length of time you are spending in the Word.

**Day One**

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|---------------------|--|
| Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 3 | First Creation Story   |
| Genesis 2: 4- 3: 24 | Second Creation Story, Adam and Eve being driven out of Eden |
| Genesis 4: 1-16     | Cain and Abel, the first murder                              |
| Genesis 6: 5- 8: 22 | Noah and the flood   |

For those who want more information and are fast readers you might read all of Genesis from chapter one through chapter 11 to get a broader understanding of the first part of Genesis

**Day Two**

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|-------------------------|---|
| Genesis 12: 1-4         | Call of Abram   |
| Genesis 15: 1-21        | God’s Covenant with Abram                             |
| Genesis 21: 1-8         | Birth of Isaac  |
| Genesis 49: 1-33        | Death of Jacob/Israel and Blessing the 12 Sons/Tribes |
| Exodus 1: 1-22, 2: 1-10 | Oppression of the Hebrew People and Birth of Moses    |

Today’s readings skip over a great deal of narrative around Jacob and Esau and the 12 sons of Jacob and Joseph in Egypt. For those doing more in-depth readings, you may want to go back and read more about Esau and Jacob, Genesis chapters 17-33 and the narrative around Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt, Genesis chapters 37, 39-48.

### Day Three

Exodus 3: 1-12, 3: 3-4: 20 The Call of Moses  
Exodus 7:8 – 11:10 The Ten Plagues  
Exodus 14: 1-30, 15:1- 21 The Parting of The Red Sea  
Exodus 15: 1-21 The Song of Miriam and Moses  
Deuteronomy 6: 1-25 The Commandment to Love God

Today's readings from Exodus again skip a great deal of the narrative. If you want to dig deeper into what Moses did in front of Pharaoh read all of Exodus chapter 3 through chapter 15

### Day Four

Joshua 1: 1-17 Joshua Leads After the Death of Moses  
Judges 4: 4-10, 5: 1-11 Deborah, Prophetess and Judge  
1 Samuel 1: 1 – 2: 26 Birth of Samuel  
Ruth chapters 1-4 Story of Ruth, Ancestress of Jesus

Today's readings move us past Moses to what comes next. Joshua is a particularly bloody book on the conquest of Canaan. Judges gives the stories of those who were to rule on behalf of God (before there were kings) There are lots of stories of good and bad judges. Samuel is the last judge, and the first prophet and Ruth is a lovely story of one of the ancestors of Jesus.

### Day 5

Psalms 8 Out of the Prayer and Song Book of our Faith, this is a Song of Praise!  
Proverbs 1: 1-9; 31:10-31 This is a Book for Teaching the Faith and the Law. A Good Woman  
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13 A Time for Everything  
Jeremiah 1: 1-10 The Call of the Prophet, Jeremiah as a Child  
Ezekiel 3: 1-17 A Prophet for the Exile

Today's readings sweep through some of the writings and touch on a couple of the major prophets. Next week we will spend more time in the Torah (first five books of our Bible) and the prophets. You can begin and read the first three chapters of Ezekiel who has some interesting visions. If you need more reading, any of the Psalms are a wonderful way to enter into a prayer time. Ecclesiastes is written by a cynic, but all of it is worth a reading.

### Day 6

Mark 1: 1-45 The Gospel of Mark is the earliest written and the most condensed  
Mark 15: 22-43;16: 1-8 The Death and Resurrection of Jesus  
Acts 2: 1-21 The Birth of the Church  
Acts 9: 1-22,1 Corinthians 15: 3-11 Conversation of Paul  
Revelation 21: 1-7 The Promise of the Last Days

Today's readings move rapidly through the New Testament. In a couple of weeks, we will spend more time in the Gospels and the Book of Acts and the following week we will dive into the letters of Paul. If you want a little bit more, read the rest of chapter nine and more of Acts. You can see the differences between Paul and Peter's ministry and the growth of the church