

## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

*This is not a race, or a mountain to climb, but simply time with God,  
learning to cherish His Word and letting it penetrate our hearts and lives.*

### GETTING STARTED

If you have little experience reading the Bible and don't feel like you know your way around in it, you will want to look at "The Bible for Life" sheet. Remember, you won't understand everything the first time through; just keep going. Each time you do it, it gets easier.



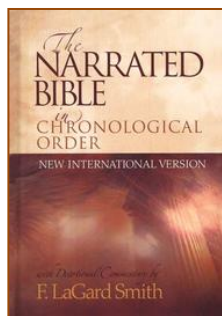
You don't have to follow a schedule, or read the books in order, either. Start with books you are familiar with, or try this for the New Testament: Luke and Acts, then Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Then read Matthew and 1 and 2 Thessalonians, followed by John and other books as you wish.

For the Old Testament is to read Genesis and Exodus, then skip to Joshua through 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, then Ezra and Nehemiah. This will give you the historical background for when you go back and read the other books. You can also insert a few Psalms every so often.

### FOLLOWING A PLAN

There is no reason to set a time goal, but if you do, be realistic about how regular you will likely be. Can you really expect to read *every* day, or during your vacation? Allow for breaks so you don't set yourself up for frustration. It's more important to develop a regular Bible reading habit than to read great quantities of words.

There are a number of places on the internet to get daily readings, one place you can go is: <http://www.esv.org/resources/reading-plans-devotions/> Printed schedules and 'daily' Bibles do not allow for getting behind, so if you do miss days, don't quit. Just continue on at a pace you can maintain; the most important thing is to keep reading.



I often recommend the *Narrated Bible* (220.51 NARRATED), which is a chronological Bible with "narrated" sections summarizing and explaining the chapters, especially helpful your first time through. It is now sold as the NIV Daily Bible -- be sure you get the edition by F LaGard Smith in order to get the narrated sections.

