



# 40 DAY BIBLE CHALLENGE

HOST PACKAGE

compass

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# LET'S JOURNEY TOGETHER

What if we as a church were to actually read the Bible? Not a verse at a time, but the whole New Testament?

You may have tried to do this before on your own, so what if instead we did this together?

The 40 Day Bible Challenge is for everybody, no matter where you are in your faith journey, so we can all partner together and read the Bible in community.

Let's read bold, read close, and read together.

Here's how it works:

**Let's READ BOLD:** we're going to cover the entire New Testament in only 8 weeks, that's a bold challenge! For five days a week, about 12 pages a day, the average person's daily reading will take about 30 minutes each day.

**Let's READ CLOSE:** no distractions, no clutter, just the Bible. There are no chapter divisions, verse numbers, study notes of any kind in this new approach to reading the Scriptures. It is still the NIV, but in a way that will help you read closer than ever before.

**Let's READ TOGETHER:** Compass is all about spiritually transforming communities, so let's read together in a book-club style conversation about the Bible! Your group will meet once a week to discuss what they're reading in a Book club style setting.

# STARTING THE JOURNEY

## Getting to know *The Books of the Bible*

The *Books of the Bible* is a new approach to reading the Bible that preserves the content but uses a new approach for the presentation:

**“When you open your copy, the first thing you’ll notice is that this is no ordinary Bible. There are no chapter or verse numbers. No study notes or cross references. No red lettering.**

**That’s because none of these features are original to the Scriptures. Most were added centuries later to help us find things. But the Bible isn’t a reference book; first and foremost, it’s a story. It’s a collection of books, each of which was meant to be experienced as a whole...The Books of the Bible is designed to be read from beginning to end.”**

([http://cbe.covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CCBE\\_groupleadersguide\\_v2.pdf](http://cbe.covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CCBE_groupleadersguide_v2.pdf))

With this approach they’ve taken the complete text of the New Testament in the NIV and formatted each book with new section breaks and a new order to make it easier to understand and easier to follow along with.

# READING TIPS AND TRICKS

## **Don't get discouraged!**

Just read what you can, don't get discouraged if you fall behind! Even if you don't finish a day's reading or if you're having trouble keeping up don't worry, just do your best.

## **Read daily**

Plan to read five days out of the week, often Monday through Friday helps people stick to the weekly rhythm. It is a bold challenge but if you stick with it you'll find that reading Scripture can be incredibly rewarding!

## **Read the introductions**

Each book in *The Books of the Bible* has a brief introduction, helping to set the stage in terms of context and literary structure of that book. This added feature will enhance your reading and understanding.

## **Don't worry if you don't understand**

The goal is to read through the New Testament, not to catch every small detail. You can always go back and dive deeper into a specific passage in greater detail later, but for now try to keep an eye on the big picture and the story as an overarching whole!

# THE WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Relationships are important in any group setting and your book club is no different. You want to create a fun and safe place, so that people will feel comfortable to be themselves and share freely about what they're reading.

That's why we suggest you start each week with snacks and a social time. Think about how many people you've connected with over coffee and a donut!

For the first few gatherings, use the provided icebreakers as a way to get to know each other and build relationships.

Below is a general outline of what each week's discussion time will look like. Most book clubs meet for 90-120 minutes. You can adapt the time as you see fit.

## **FIRST:**

Snacks & Socializing. Use an icebreaker to transition from this time.  
(15-30 minutes)

## **NEXT:**

Reflect on the previous week's reading.  
Use the "Conversation Starters" to generate discussion.  
(30-60 minutes)

## **LAST:**

Prepare for the week ahead and pray together.  
(15-30 mins)



# ICEBREAKERS

These aren't just games. They are a significant opportunity for your group to get to know each other.

There are four activities, one for each of the first four weeks of group. You can do them in any order you'd like and repeat them as often as you'd like!

## Icebreaker 1: Mix & Meet

Each person is to grab 5 M&M's. Don't eat them yet! Assign a different M&M colour to each category:

FAMILY/FRIENDS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL/WORK \_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC/MOVIES \_\_\_\_\_

FAVOURITE MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_

WILDCARD \_\_\_\_\_

Share a personal fact for each M&M you have in your hand. For example, if you have three blue, one yellow and one red, you might have to share three facts about your family, one about your hobbies, and one favourite memory.

Your prize is getting to eat the M&Ms after you've shared your facts!

## Icebreaker 2: WHODUNIT?

This game reveals interesting (and sometimes incredible!) things people have done. Give each person one card and ask them to write down something interesting they have done and keep it a secret.

### EXAMPLES:

- I went skydiving once.
- I have gotten arrested before.
- I once drank a gallon of milk.
- I have eaten bugs before.

Write a fact that most people don't already know – the sillier (or more unbelievable) the better.

Shuffle the cards and then pass them back out. Each person takes turns reading aloud their card and then the reader must take one guess as to whose fact he or she read. After he or she guesses, the guessed person simply says “yes” or “no”.

If the person guesses correctly, the guessed person can briefly explain what they wrote (if desired). The guessing continues until all cards are exhausted. Everyone reveals who wrote which card at the end.

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## Icebreaker 3: SIMILARITIES

Split into two teams. Each team must write down as many things as they all have in common (similarities) in five minutes.

When the timer goes off, read the items on your list to the opposing team. Whichever team has the most items in common wins!

The losing team must clean up after the winning team at the end of group.

### TIP:

- Consider not allowing teams to use simple things like physical height, hair colour, current clothing items worn, etc. Limiting the similarities to non-physical things (like experiences, family makeup, jobs, etc.) helps people to learn more about each other and build connections between group members.

## Icebreaker 4: ROLL THE DICE, BREAK THE ICE

Have each person take turns rolling the dice and answering the corresponding question. Play a few rounds.

2. If I were a millionaire I would...
3. My favourite sports team is...
4. My favourite band/singer is...
5. In ten years I will be...
6. My favourite book/author is...
7. If I could travel anywhere new I would go...
8. My favourite dream car is...
9. For a hobby, I...
10. My favourite actor/actress is...
11. My dream job is...
12. The thing that makes me the happiest is...

# READING PLAN

## Week 1:

**(Luke, Acts)**

Day 1: Pages 1-11 (read until “he left him until an opportune time.”)

Day 2: Pages 12-25 (read until “whoever is not against you is for you.”)

Day 3: Pages 25-34 (read until “worked all through the dough.”)

Day 4: Pages 34-44 (read until “and kill them in front of me.”)

Day 5: Pages 44-56 (read until the end of Luke)

## Week 2:

**(Luke, Acts, 1-2 Thessalonians)**

Day 6: Pages 57-66 (read until “priests became obedient to the faith.”)

Day 7: Pages 66-78 (read until “continued to spread and flourish.”)

Day 8: Pages 78-90 (read until “spread widely and grew in power.”)

Day 9: Pages 90-106 (read until the end of Acts)

Day 10: Pages 106-119 (read until the end of 2 Thessalonians)

## Week 3:

**(1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans)**

Day 11: Pages 121-131 (read until “I too have the spirit of God.”)

Day 12: Pages 131-142 (read until the end of 1 Corinthians)

Day 13: Pages 143-157 (read until the end of 2 Corinthians)

Day 14: Pages 159-169 (read until the end of Galatians)

Day 15: Pages 171-186 (read until “love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”)

## Week 4:

**(Romans, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, Philippians, 1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy)**

Day 16: Pages 186-196 (read until the end of Romans)

Day 17: Pages 197-203 (read until the end of Colossians)

Day 18: Pages 205-218 (read until the end of Philemon)

Day 19: Pages 219-234 (read until the end of 1 Timothy)

Day 20: Pages 235-247 (read until the end of 2 Timothy)

## **Week 5:**

**(Matthew)**

Day 21: Pages 249-263 (read until “and not as their teachers of the law.”)

Day 22: Pages 263-275 (read until “new treasures as well as old.”)

Day 23: Pages 275-283 (read until “your brother or sister from your heart.”)

Day 24: Pages 285-296 (read until “but the righteous to eternal life.”)

Day 25: Pages 296-303 (read until the end of Matthew)

## **Week 6:**

**(Hebrews, James, Mark)**

Day 26: Pages 305-311 (read until “to whom we must give account.”)

Day 27: Pages 311-324 (read until the end of Hebrews)

Day 28: Pages 325-332 (read until the end of James)

Day 29: Pages 333-351 (read until “not to tell anyone about him.”)

Day 30: Pages 351-367 (read until the end of Mark)

## **Week 7:**

**(Peter, Jude, John)**

Day 31: Pages 369-376 (read until the end of 1 Peter)

Day 32: Pages 377-386 (read until the end of Jude)

Day 33: Pages 387-403 (read until “was later to betray him.”)

Day 34: Pages 403-416 (read until “what the Father has told me to say”)

Day 35: Pages 416-430 (read until the end of John)

## **Week 8:**

**(1-3 John, Revelation)**

Day 36: Pages 431-445 (read until the end of 3 John)

Day 37: Pages 447-455 (read until “what the Spirit says to the churches.”)

Day 38: Page 455-469 (read until “because the plague was so terrible.”)

Day 39: Pages 469-477 (read until the end of Revelation)

Day 40: Catch-up Day