

Antioch Christian Fellowship – Through the Bible!

Are you ready to grow in your faith and in your relationship with God? One of the major ways we stay strong as believers is growing in the knowledge of God's word (1 Peter 2:1-3). When God was leading the Israelites in the wilderness he commanded them to have his word constantly in their hearts, minds, and conversation:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. - Deuteronomy 6:4-9

After the death Moses, Joshua was chosen to lead the people into the promised land. God made clear that for him to be successful he would need to be constantly in God's Word:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. - Joshua 1:8

God also makes the same promise to us that if we stay in His Word and obey it we will grow and prosper spiritually:

Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. - Psalm 1:1-3

The busyness of life (family duties), daily distractions (school and work obligations), our own fleshly nature (TV and smartphone), and the intimidation of engaging in a book that is large and unfamiliar can get in the way of us reading and studying the Scriptures. This is why we will be reading through the **BIBLE IN A YEAR** as a **COMMUNITY!** We will, in love, be encouraging one another and holding each other accountable to reach this goal. The aim is to go through the Bible book by book covering each major section of the Bible:

Old Testament (39 Books)

Pentateuch (First Five Books, also known as the Torah) - Genesis through Deuteronomy / Historical Books - Joshua through Esther / Wisdom Books - Job through Song of Songs / Major Prophets - Isaiah through Daniel / Minor Prophets - Hosea through Malachi

New Testament (27 Books)

The Gospels and Acts - Matthew through Acts / Paul's a Epistles (Letters)- Romans through Colossians / General Epistles & Revelation- Hebrews through Revelation

We will be starting **Monday, January 16th** and there are things to keep in mind:

1. Keep up with the readings - We all fall behind sometimes, but do your best to not fall too far behind. The readings are short enough to be completed within a 30 minute time span. Since we are doing this together, we all want to be at the same place at the same time. If you fall too far behind you will be tempted to quit.

2. If you have trouble reading, you can also listen to the passages online - There are several websites that have the Bible on audio. The following link has several translations where you can listen to the week's passages - <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>. It may be helpful to listen as a family or with others at a set time.
3. Subscribe to the Antioch Facebook Page! - Pastor Aaron will be guiding us through the readings by posting his commentary and teaching on each day's reading (<https://www.facebook.com/AntiochPhilly/>). You will also have access through the Antioch website (<https://antiochphilly.org/>)
4. Designate a special time to do the readings and select a partner that will hold you accountable - Just like you schedule a time to eat or go to the gym, schedule a particular time during the day to do the reading. This could be during a lunch break, after dinner or when you get up in the morning. Also having a partner(s) will help you make sure you are doing the readings and will make the process even more enjoyable!
5. If you don't understand something right away it's ok, keep going! - You are going to come across passages that are hard to understand, it's ok and to be expected. The Bible was written in a different culture and time and some passages will be harder to understand than others. Be patient with yourself and know that no matter how long you are in the Scriptures there will be always more to learn.
6. Don't just let this be an academic exercise - Whether this is your first time reading through the Bible or if you are familiar with the Scripture PRAY that God will open your eyes to what he is trying to communicate (Psalm 119:18).
7. Start your Library - The Bible will take effort to understand. Reading the works of pastors and scholars can help us understand what we are reading. See Pastor Aaron's resource list below:
In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood - Walt Brown PhD - good for understanding the scientific reliability of Genesis

Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary - This is a good resource to get knowledge of a person, place, thing, or idea you come across in the Bible

Hard Sayings of the Bible - Walter Kaiser, Peter H. Davids, F.F. Bruce, Manfred T. Branch - this is good for those hard to understand passages that need more explanation

The Genesis Record - Henry M. Morris - A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on Genesis written by a Scientist which will give insight into Genesis from a scientific perspective

Nave's Topical Bible - Orville J. Nave- If you wanted to know what passages cover a particular topic, like Anger, Love, or even God, this is an excellent resource that groups the verses of the Bible based on Topic

Baxter's Explore the Book - J. Sidlow Baxter - This is a highly recommended resource if you are planning to go through the Bible book by book. This can run around \$80 but is highly recommended when going through the Bible

The John Phillips Bible Character Series - This is a four volume set exploring the characters of the Bible. There are three volumes for the Old Testament characters and there is one volume for the New Testament.