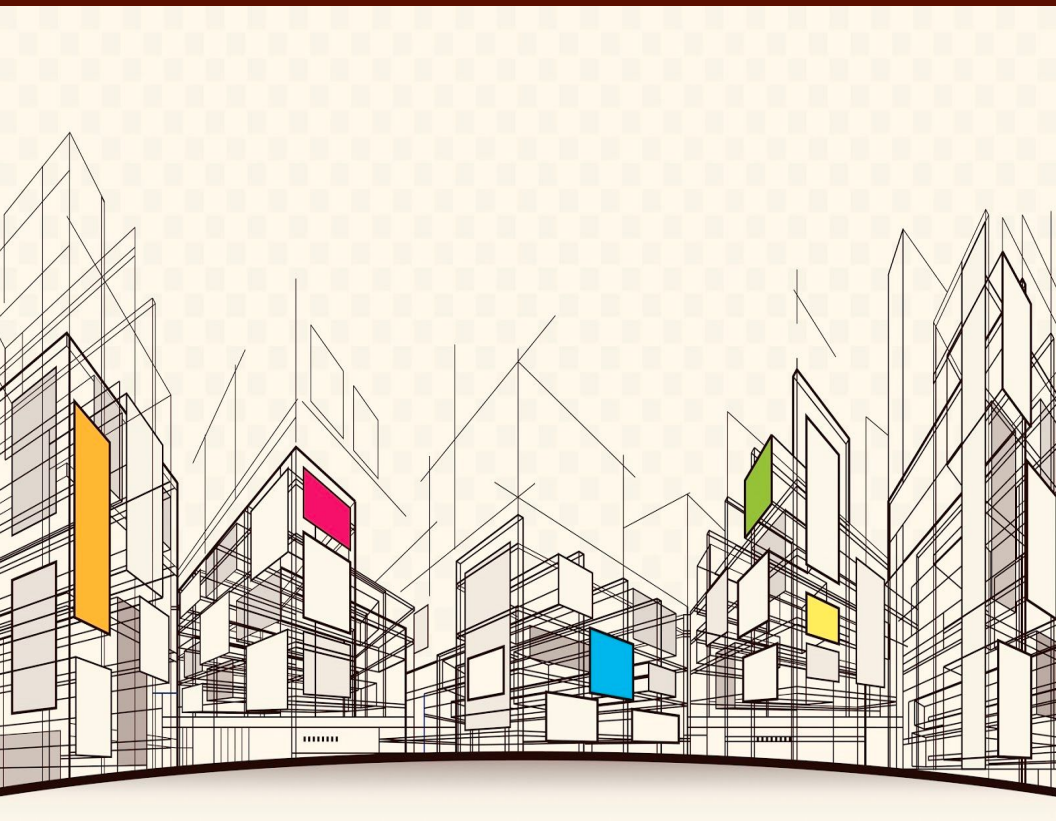

# Discipleship Begins @ Home Blueprint

*5 Year Plan*

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First paperback edition December 2020

Published by The Next Generation

www.thenextgenerationministries.com

# Discipleship Begins @ Home Blueprint

Our prayer is that this blueprint will help make the discipleship of your children in the Lord attainable through a systematic step-by-step process that strives to grow at the same rate as your children do. We do this through a focus on 6 disciplines throughout the life of your child: Bible Reading, Prayer, Fellowship, Outreach/Service, Discipleship & Giving.

This blueprint includes a 5 Year Discipleship Plan geared for youth & adults 6th grade and older. This plan focuses on implementing the knowledge of the Word of God and the participation in the disciplines of the faith at a rate equal to their maturity. This plan is perfect for parents who have never read through the Word of God before or for the teenager or young adult who has never read through the entirety of Scripture.

For those who have children younger than 6th grade, we recommend the Discipleship for Life Plan.

## Focus on the Bible

A majority of this blueprint fixes its attention on your and your children's knowledge of the Bible. Of all the six disciplines listed above, in my experience, Bible Reading is the most neglected. However, of all the disciplines, Bible Reading is the most important.

Let me explain why.

It is through our Bible Reading that all of our disciplines are informed. It is through the witness found in the Word of God that we learn about God, His and our nature, the life, death & resurrection of Jesus and the implications those things have for us. It is through the Word that we are not just informed about each disciplines' importance, but also the correct way to practice those disciplines. Consider the following passages on each of these disciplines:

**Bible Reading** (Ps. 119:9-16; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12-13)
**Prayer** (Matt. 5:43-45; Matt. 6:5-15)
**Fellowship** (John 13:34-35; Phil. 2:1-11; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 John 1:5-10)
**Outreach/Service** (Luke 6:27-35; Luke 10:25-37; Gal. 6:9-10)
**Discipleship** (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 12:28-34; John 13:34-35)
**Giving** (Matt. 6:1-4; Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 8-9)

As you and your children gain a proper understanding of the Word of God, they will also be gaining a proper understanding of the importance of these disciplines.

Our focus on six disciplines is two-fold. First, it is to help create an understanding that living out faith in Christ isn't something just done on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights. Second, it is to provide practical ideas for opportunities to work out these six disciplines of the Christian life producing a more well-rounded faith in your youth or young adult as they grow.

The Discipleship Plan included is for youth or adults of any age and any knowledge level of the Scriptures. It is specific enough to give real direction to parents desiring to raise their children in the Lord and varied enough not to fall in the realm of legalism. Our goal is to see a faith produced in your children that is intellectually stimulating and practically fulfilling at an age appropriate level, thereby training them to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength (Mark 12:30).

# How to Study the Bible

The goal of this section is simple: To make reading the Bible and understanding it attainable to the reader or the parent who is trying to instill a knowledge of the Word of God to their children. I would like to be the first to say, *You can do this, even if you have never done this before! You can teach your children, even if, before reading this blueprint, you have never read through the Bible yourself!*

Let's face it. The Bible can seem to be an intimidating and confusing book. Consider the fact that the Bible is not one book, but a collection of books covering two covenants (or promises) of God, that have their fulfillment in Jesus and it is easy to see how people get confused. When we add to that foreign, ancient practices, such as sacrifices, and rules listed in the Bible that followers of Jesus no longer practice, such as the prohibition of tattoos (many believers have them today), it can seem that the Bible is too barbaric or too contradictory to understand. Other sections, such as prophecy, seem too mystical or fantastical to ever have the hope of understanding it.

Overwhelmed? Don't be! The purpose of this blueprint is to provide a practical way to break down the Bible in understandable portions in a three phase process that will help you understand how to read the Word of God for the rest of your life. It will also instruct you on how to use that knowledge to teach your children to do the same at a very early age.

So where do we begin?

# A Word about Translations

I believe that the best place to begin is the type of Bible you or your youth use. When talking about the type of Bible, I am speaking of translation. Many people believe that any translation of the Bible you use is just as good as another, just as long as you are in the Word of God. Sadly, this is not true.

There are a few factors that must be considered when searching for an appropriate translation. One is the consideration of the age or reading level of the reader. The second is the reliability of the translation, especially for the maturing reader.

When I was about 10 years old, I visited my grandmother who gave me my first Bible. It was an imitation leather black covered Bible. I loved that Bible and appreciate it even more now, as I wasn't a Christian when it was given to me (that would be another 10 years).

However, there was one thing wrong with the Bible my grandmother gifted me: it was a King James Version Bible (KJV). The King James Version is written in Old English dating back to 1610...the time of Shakespeare. I sure didn't understand the language being used in it at the age of 10! In my case, Bible translation became a barrier to understanding the Bible at an early age.

The good news is that today there are many translations that can help maturing readers get the most out of their Bible.

Without going into too much detail, I would like to describe the different types of translations.

The first type of translation is known as an essentially literal translation. This is a word-for-word rendering of the original text. This is the best type of translation for those in High School and adults. An

essentially literal translation ensures that the words you are reading are the Word of God and not an interpretation of the Word of God. These include the New American Standard Bible (NASB), the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New King James Version (NKJV).

The second type of translation is known as a dynamic equivalent translation. The New International Version (NIV) and the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) fall into this category. These are known as thought-for-thought translations. There is a spectrum for these types of translations. Some, like the NIV and HCSB, draw closer to the word-for-word translations than others. These can be good translations for those growing into Jr. or Mid High. However, the further away the translation gets from a literal translation, the more opportunity there is for misinterpretation of the original text, which is why I do not recommend the dynamic equivalent translations for those in High School or for adults.

The third type of translation are the reader's version translations. The NIrV falls into this category. These are great Bible for those learning English as a second language or the growing reader in the 3rd to 5th grade range. These Bibles break down large words and concepts for the beginning reader. It is a great encouragement to child and parent alike because it allows children at a very young age to really read the Bible for themselves.

Finally, there is the "translation" known as a paraphrase Bible. This is usually one man's or a group's opinion of the ideas God was trying to get across in His Word. The Message Bible (MSG) and the Living Bible (LB) fall into this category. However, the paraphrase changes the text of the Bible so dramatically that it is often unrecognizable from the original text. To understand what I mean, go online to biblegateway.com or to a bookstore and compare the Message to one of the more literal translations. You will find that many well known passages become something entirely different in the paraphrase

edition. This is why I believe this type of "Bible" isn't a Bible at all. Therefore, I do not recommend it under any circumstances.

## A Few Words about Study Bibles

If this is your or your child's or first time through the Bible, I do not recommend a Study Bible. Going through the three phase reading plan in this blueprint will give both you and them a proper understanding of the Word of God and prepare them for the deeper insight that a Study Bible will offer them, as they grow. The most important thing needed the first time through is familiarity with the Word of God itself.

For those who are Jr. or Mid High and older, who have gone through the three phase reading plan, I recommend having a good Study Bible from one of the translations mentioned in the previous section. A Study Bible can unlock the meaning of people groups, places, cultures and customs not known by modern day readers. The introduction given before each book of the Bible can help set the timeframe of when the book was written, the circumstances leading to its writing and other things of cultural and historical importance.

When you hear a good sermon, it often unlocks meaning from within the text of God's word that you never understood before. The pastor or teacher has taken the time to study the passage fully and bring out many things from the Scripture that may not have been apparent from a straightforward reading of the text. A good Study Bible can have the same effect. I encourage getting one with lots of notes and articles to be of the best benefit for you or your youth.

However, be wary of the marketing of "Teen Study Bibles". Many of these Bibles through their title give the impression that there is a lot of information being shared. But the truth is that many of these "Teen Study Bibles" have very few notes or articles. There are some good ones

out there if you look hard, though. But don't be afraid of buying a regular Study Bible for your teen.

A word of caution concerning Study Bibles needs to be said here. The Word of God is the actual inspired text, not the notes or the articles. While I believe that a Study Bible is a useful tool, it is in no way a replacement for the Word of God itself. A man can become mature in his faith reading just the Word of God alone, without the benefit of any notes or articles. However, a man cannot become mature if he only regarded the notes and articles at the expense of God's Word.

There are many in today's society both believers in Christ and opponents of Christ who know a lot of random verses of God's Word through hearsay, YouTube, the Internet, Instagram, movies, TV and what they hear from family and friends. However, many of these same people don't know what the actual Word of God says, in context. An adult or youth who is tempted by any of these mearns to shortcut their knowledge of the Word of God would be better served by purchasing a Bible without the notes first. As their personal knowledge increases concerning their understanding of God's Word, then they can purchase a Study Bible to further this understanding.

# The Three Phase Reading Plan

Now that we have looked at Bible translations and Study Bibles, it's time to dive into the three phase reading plan that will help anyone learn how to read the Word of God and understand it.

## Phase 1--The New Testament

The best place to begin studying the Word of God is the New Testament. The New Testament is broken up into 5 sections, consisting of 27 books. The first section comprises four books called the Gospels. These books are about the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The next section has only one book in it, Acts. Acts chronicles the life of the early church after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven. The third section consists of the letters of Paul. This section spans from the book of Romans to the book of Philemon. Hebrews is sometimes placed with the Pauline epistles because the style of writing is similar to Paul's. However, the writer of Hebrews is unknown, so oftentimes it is placed within the next section of the New Testament known as the General Epistles. These stretch from Hebrews to Jude. They are called "general" because they were written by different people from the early church and their authors are often identified in the book title. The final section consists of only one book, Revelation. Revelation deals with the prophecy of the end times, when Jesus judges the earth and finally, victoriously reigns as King.

Jesus' last words recorded in Matthew give us a good idea where someone should begin in the New Testament. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20). In this passage, Jesus says that in order for us to be made a disciple (follower), we are to observe (or obey) all He commanded us.

So the obvious question becomes: Where can we learn about what Jesus has commanded us to do? Answer: In the Gospels. It is in the Gospels that we learn about the life, death and resurrection and the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is also the best place to begin our study of the Word of God.

The Reading Plan for the New Testament included in this blueprint begins with the Gospels of Luke & John and continues through a majority of the New Testament. These plans do not go in the book order of the Bible. Rather, they are arranged to be read in a way that brings the most understanding for the reader.

Understanding the Old Testament becomes our next goal after Phase 1 is complete.

## Phase 2--Overview of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is broken up into 5 sections, consisting of 39 books. The first section is known as the Pentateuch or the Books of Moses. These are the first five books of the Old Testament and cover the history of the beginning of the world to the birth of the nation of Israel. The second section is the History of Israel which spans from the book of Joshua to the book of Esther. The third section is known as the Writings or the Wisdom Literature which cover the books of Job through the Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon). These writings cover prose, poetry, songs & wisdom literature bringing glory to God, remembering His promises, recounting Israel's history and pondering life's deep questions. The next section is the Major Prophets. The Major Prophets include the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel. Through these prophets we see a bold proclamation calling the people of Israel back to the God whom they have promised to serve. Finally, the last section is the Minor Prophets. The Minor Prophets begin in Hosea and

end in Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. Like the Major Prophets, the Minor Prophets called the people of Israel back to faith in the living God through warnings and encouragements based upon the covenant the people of Israel made with God.

One thing to note about the sections of the Old Testament. Each section is more or less in chronological order. For example, Genesis begins the Books of Moses, whereas Deuteronomy ends this section chronologically. Joshua picks up where Moses left off and the History of Israel is traced from Joshua until Esther in chronological order (with a slight repeat happening in 1 & 2 Chronicles). These first two sections represent the chronological history of humanity and God's chosen people Israel.

The Writings and the Major and Minor Prophets are also in chronological order respectively. However, the chronology of each of the books in these sections may intersect with the history of Israel at different points. If we think of the Pentateuch and the History of Israel as a timeline from the start to the finish of the Old Testament, we can see better how they interact with the other sections of the Old Testament.

Gen-Deut, Jos, Jud, 1&2 Sa, 1&2 K, Ez, Neh, Es ***Pentateuch/History***
1 & 2 Chron.

Job, P s a l m s, Pr-Song ***Wisdom Literature***

Is, Jer/Ez, Dan ***Major Prophets***

Hos-Zep Hag-Mal ***Minor Prophets***

In our blueprint, we read our outline of the Old Testament through these sections, combining the Major and Minor Prophets into one section. As with the New Testament, the readings are arranged in a way that will make the most sense. In this, our first run through, we skip through much of the family tree of the tribes of Israel, many of the

ceremonial & sacrificial laws and the harder to understand prophets. We read enough to understand their importance, but not so much that we are overwhelmed with these details the first time through. Our goal is to gain an understanding of the Old Testament's makeup and how it points to Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of God.

After we have completed the outline of the Old Testament, we will be ready to read the whole Bible.

## Phase 3--The Whole Bible Chronologically

This blueprint recommends "The Daily Bible" by F. LaGard Smith to read the Bible chronologically. In this unique edition, the Bible is chronologically read in 365 daily selections. Because of the background given in Phase 1 & 2 of the reading plan, the reader will more easily understand as the Daily Bible weaves from the history of King David to the Psalms that he wrote, the history of King Solomon and the Proverbs he wrote, the downfall of Israel and Judah and the warnings of the Prophets living during that time, the life of Jesus as a unified whole, and, the early church and the letters of Paul. Beyond the chronological approach, there is commentary in appropriate spots in the readings that help explain the background or history of a section just read or about to be read and how it connects the story of the Bible as a unified whole.

After having read the Daily Bible, the reader will be able to enjoy the Word of God for the rest of their lives.

## The 5 Year Discipleship Reading Plan

The 5 Year Discipleship Reading Plan is designed for anyone 6th grade and older, including adults. In this plan, both Phases 1 & 2 are completed in the first year with the Daily Bible read in Year 2. An introduction to each section can be found at the beginning of each part of the reading plan to bring more context and background for the growing reader. This plan is constructed for growing youth and adults at a pace and reading level that will be challenging without being overwhelming.

## Some Final Pieces of Advice...and Encouragement

Bible Reading is not like a "pass or fail" class in school. However, a lot of people unknowingly treat it that way. This attitude has defeated many in their attempt and desire to study God's Word. Phases 1 & 2 provide a lot of leeway for missed days by only having readings 5 days a week, some weeks even less than that. This makes catching up easy, if you find that you or your teen is falling behind schedule. However, Phase 3 is a 365 day devotional. Many who undertake this endeavor will have every intention of finishing Phase 3 in 365 days, a very doable effort. But what if you or your child miss a day because of sickness, busyness or forgetfulness? In the mind of the parent or teen who has made this goal, they now have twice the reading to do. A daily reading that was between 3-4 chapters is now 7-8 in the mind of the person who has fallen behind. What if that day turned into a week because of vacation or sickness or something unexpected? Now that same person feels that they need to "make up" the equivalent of 28 chapters (or the length of the Gospel of Matthew) to get "caught up" with where they are "supposed" to be! The response for many who fall into that situation is to give up reading the Word of God altogether because the task has become overwhelming.

I'd like to free you from those feelings of helplessness and stress before they ever crop up. Setting a goal for reading, which this blueprint

attempts to do, is a good thing. However, the real purpose of our Bible Reading is to grow to know God more so that we and our children may follow Him better. Missing a day or even a week happens at times. I've been a Christian nearly 30 years and I still have inconsistencies in my Bible Reading. When we miss that time, we have to avoid the attitude that we have to catch up. Remember our ultimate goal is to read the Word of God, not the arbitrary time frame we have set in our mind to do it. When we or our children miss a day (or many days), the next time we remember our devotional time, we read one day's worth of devotions, not two or three or 10. Treating your Bible study this way will help ease the pressure we sometimes put on ourselves or our teens, especially when our intention is to honor God through these actions.

For those who may still be struggling with this concept, let me put it another way. Which do you think is more God honoring: A person who set up a plan to read the Bible all the way through but falls behind after 3 months and never completes their study because they began to see the task as too laborious OR A person who makes it their priority to finish reading the Word of God, and though they hoped to complete the task in a year, they continued to pick up where they left off, one day at a time, until finally, after 19 months, they celebrated reading the final verse of Revelation? You see, the first person lost sight of their goal confusing their timetable with their actual task of reading the Bible, the last person never gave up. Remember the goal is not the time frame, getting yourself and your teen into and completing our reading of the Word of God is. I truly pray keeping this perspective in studying your Bible will free both your mind and heart, and by extension, the mind and heart of your teen, from false guilt and expectations we place on our devotion to God, as we seek to honor Him.

## 5 Year Discipleship Plan

This plan is for individuals and families who haven't grown up in the church who are wishing to start a discipleship plan for themselves or their children at an older age. For family members under age 11, I would refer to the Discipleship for Life Blueprint.

It is strongly encouraged that parents walk through the 5 Year Discipleship Plan as they begin their discipleship process for their children, no matter which plan your children are in. This will set up a firm foundation of faith for the parent to be equipped to answer questions of growing children or discover answers together with their children if they too are on the 5 Year Discipleship Plan.

## Year 1

Read the How to Study the Bible section of this blueprint and plan on completing Phases 1 (The New Testament) and 2 (Survey of the Old Testament) this year for your youth. They should be able to accomplish this by reading between 2-3 chapters per day. (The reading plan is included in this blueprint).

If you have children 16 or over, it is important they are part of a small group within the context of the church or involved with growing in relationship to other believers within your congregation in an intentional way (this could be Bible studies or mentoring relationships). If you are not sure where to begin with this, ask your pastor or minister how your congregation accomplishes this.

High School youth should begin to use their gifts to help serve the church. At this point, because they are still learning the basics of the faith, areas of teaching should be left to others. Playing an instrument, handing out bulletins, serving in the kitchen, making meals for others, visiting the sick, babysitting for young couples with children, helping the homeless through programs in the church and any other task oriented function is a great service to the body of Christ and a great opportunity for growth.

Keep your youth accountable for their daily reading. Have daily discussions concerning the passages read to make sure your children have an understanding of what they read. Treat their commitment to their Christian disciplines: Prayer, Bible Reading, Fellowship, Outreach/Service, Discipleship & Giving, the same as you treat the disciplines in their school of attendance, homework and good grades.

Treat their attendance in church as non-negotiable. However, give the biblical reasons for attendance (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12-14; Romans 12; Heb. 10:23-25), so that your children understand that it is obedience to Christ and not to your roule that is important. Interact with them concerning what they heard in the sermon and how the sermon impacted/challenged you, as well.

If they choose to be involved in Youth Group, Worship Team or any other serving activity in the church, then treat it the same as you would a commitment they make at school (running for student president, joining an athletic sport or other extracurricular activity): Have them there when they meet, practice or train and make sure they fulfill their commitment for the year or semester before withdrawing them, if they choose not to do that activity the next semester or year. Communicate with the leaders if there is a choice of withdrawal and the date it will take effect.

Begin to introduce Christian book reading for the purpose of personal discipleship. Have them read one chapter a day, five days a week from the Suggest Reading book list. The goal is to have them read 4-5 Christian books per year. As with Bible Reading, ask often where they are, what they are learning and when the last time they read their book was. Discuss what you are reading/studying as well and what you are learning through your studies.

Include in your Christian book reading some books on Apologetics. Subjects such as creation/evolution, biblical sexuality (including biblical views on premarital sex, living together, homosexuality, transgenderism & abortion), practical Christian living books, etc. need to be included during this time, as your children will be wrestling with these ideas among their peers and in their school environment.

## Year 2

Read through the entire Bible chronologically this year using the Daily Bible (NIV). (This is Phase 3 in the "How to Study the Bible" section). Understand how each of the sections of Scripture, both Old & New Testaments, interact with each other.

Introduce your children to Bible study tools such as, commentaries, Bible dictionaries & concordances. Of course, in today's day and age, all of these materials can be found online or in digital format.

Teach your children the differences between Conservative/Historic, Moderate and Liberal /Progressive interpretations of the Bible and of the faith. These differences represent a profound contrast on how the Bible is viewed and how the gospel is treated. A Conservative/Historic view holds the Bible and its teaching as inerrant, the content of the Bible historical and the Jesus of the Bible as real. From the Conservative/Historic standpoint, the Word of God is used to evaluate the culture in which we live *(This is our view)*. Whereas, Moderate views of the Bible hold the Bible in less regard. The Bible is often contextualized within the framework of current scientific theory and veins to see some of the miraculous passages as allegorical rather than literal. These changes have a profound impact on faith and doctrine. Moderate views often morph, over time, to Liberal/Progressive ones. Liberal/Progressive views of the Bible hold the Word of God as guidelines to be seen through the lens of the culture. Culture is used to define the Word of God within the Liberal/Progressive context. Liberal/Progressive views often morph into atheism over time.

Keep current on cultural issues and teach your children to interpret those issues through the lens of Scripture (see Col. 2:6-8; 2 Cor 10:1-5).

Continue to have your youth read books that will help supplement their faith from the Suggested Reading book list at the end of this blueprint.

Continue having them read one chapter a day 5 days a week. By doing so, they will be able to read at least 4-5 books every year to help bring practical life application to the faith they are reading about.

Youth should continue to serve within the body of the church in much needed task oriented areas, as they continue their understanding in the faith of Jesus Christ.

As with any responsibility, hold your children accountable to the commitments that they make at church. Youth group, serving in the kitchen, visiting the elderly, Sunday School helper, etc. should be held in the same regard as you would treat an equal responsibility at school (be there on time, be committed throughout the season of ministry, go even when it is hard or inconvenient, etc.)

For Youth 16 & older, have them continue to be an active participant within small groups or mentoring within your church (or become a part of small groups or mentoring, if they are turning 16). Remember, attending a small group or being mentored by another is not simply a meeting time together once a week. It is beginning to learn to love (and be loved by) the body of Christ as Jesus commanded (John 13:34-35) and therefore demands an investment of life that goes beyond the scheduled meeting times.

Have daily discussions concerning all that you and your children are learning from your Bible Reading, your small group/mentoring times, your service, your weekly congregational meetings and your Christian book reading.

## Years 3-5

If you haven't yet, purchase a good study Bible with LOTS of notes for your youth. Begin reading the Bible again 2-3 chapters a day. Now that they have read the Bible once and have an understanding of its makeup, they will find that the study Bible will open up deep understanding into the Scriptures. They will also find that reading the Bible is much easier to understand with this basic knowledge underneath their belt. During years 3 & 4, they should read through the Bible again and start again in Year 5.

Youth 16 and over should take some time one of these years to take a course, such as, Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey) to understand how to be a good steward of their money in God's eyes.

Now that your youth have read through the Bible once and read through a survey of the Bible twice, it is time to stretch them by having them help those teaching within the classrooms of younger children. Being in a classroom environment as a helper or co-teacher will help them articulate their faith to those who are younger in simplified terms. This time of teaching will be really helpful in their times of outreach to those who do not know Christ.

If they have been involved in your Youth Ministry, consider having them approach the Youth Minister or Leader about consideration for leadership within the youth group. Being an example to peers, as they continue to grow in Christ, is a great way to both remain accountable and spur them on to further growth.

Youth 16 and over should continue to participate in small groups (or join one if turning 16). They should continue to stretch themselves by constantly building relationships with those who are outside their natural age range.

Youth should consider going to conferences or camps during these years to encourage their growth in the faith and build stronger relationships with those in your church and/or family. The conferences or camps may be age oriented, such as, Youth or College Age or may be group or subject oriented, such as a Men's or Women's Conference or a Worship or Apologetics Conference. Investing in their faith this way will help them grow in their relationship with God and their understanding of the Word and how it applies to their life. It will also create lasting memories with those in your congregation and family who also desire to draw closer to Christ. (They can do this at an earlier time, but if they haven't done it by Year 3, it should become a priority.)

Youth should continue to read a chapter a day, five days a week on books from the Suggested Reading book list. Focus more on the Evangelism/Apologetics books these years. They will be a great help in answering questions they or their friends might have concerning their faith. I would suggest that for these years, every other book they read should be from this category. Again, by doing this, they should be able to read at least 4-5 books by the end of each of these years.

Youth should consider stretching themselves through an outreach sponsored by your church. It could be as simple as feeding the homeless or visiting those in nursing homes or can be as challenging as taking a mission trip with your church.

Continue to have daily discussions concerning all the things they are learning and being challenged with in each of these areas of Christian discipline and discipleship. Share also your times of challenge and growth.

At the end of this 5 year period, your youth/young adult should have read through the Word of God 2½-3 times and have read between 20-25 Christian books.

## Some Considerations for Those Turning 16 & Older

In our current culture, the age 16 is an important coming of age time for our children. They often get their driver's license and their first job at this age. Similar milestones need to happen within the context of their faith, as they are preparing for adulthood.

If your church participates in small groups, it is important to have youth at the age of 16 become part of the adult small group. As youth are beginning to break out of their "youth age only" shell, it is important that the church also encourages and fosters this growth. This will also make transition from youth to adult ministries in the church a much easier one.

During these years (16-18), continue to reinforce the important disciplines of Bible Reading, Prayer, Fellowship, Outreach/Service, Discipleship and Giving. Ask often about the Bible Reading and Christian book reading. In areas such as Outreach/Service and Giving, encourage your children in these disciplines without your direct involvement. Allow God to burden them to the needs they see and encourage them to meet those needs themselves, as God leads.

During these years, it is important to help them understand the importance of finances. Have your children enroll in a Christian Financial Ministry Class, such as Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. This will teach them the proper way to handle money. It will teach them the importance of tithing and savings.

When they get their first job, teach your children the importance of making faith a priority by making sure that Sunday worship, small group meetings/Bible studies and times of serving the church remain free. Jobs will not protect their faith, so we must teach them to make faith a priority. The use of their gifts within the body of Christ are one of the greatest factors in continued faithfulness beyond High School.

## A Final Note

This 5 year plan can be started at any time and though tailored in terminology for parents of youth, can be completed by people any age. Therefore a youth who begins this plan during his/her senior year in High School, will still find this effective in aiding his/her discipleship through their young adult years. Similarly, parents and other adults who wish for themselves to be discipled will find this an equally effective tool.

This plan is also highly adaptable. You may find at the beginning that your youth has already completed some of all of Year 1, Year 2 and/or Years 3-5. It is highly encouraged that whatever year is incomplete, you focus on filling in the gaps to fully complete that year before moving on to the next year. The considerations for those turning 16 or older should be added to whatever year (1-5) your youth turns 16.

I pray this tool will be a help to parents as together we strive to see a mature faith built up in our youth. Lord bless you.

Now on to our Reading Plans!

## Phase 1 (New Testament)

### Part 1--The Gospels & Acts

Each of the Gospels are about the life, death & resurrection of Jesus. Because each of the Gospels are written by a different person, they each have a slightly different account. All the facts are there, but Matthew remembers different things about some of the stories than Mark or Luke do. John was written after the first three were well known to add new accounts about Jesus that people didn't know.

You will find many of the same stories in Matthew, Mark & Luke. This is why they are called the Synoptic Gospels. Just like synonyms are words that mean similar things, these Gospels share similar accounts of the same stories. Because so much is shared of these three Gospels, this blueprint focuses on the Gospel of Luke among the Synoptic Gospels before moving forward to John and Acts.

**Luke** is the Gospel most interested in details. This is why many who study the past often start with Luke. Luke begins his story by telling the person he is writing, Theophilus, that he has studied carefully everything about Jesus' life.

**John** Is the Gospel most interested in showing that Jesus is God. From the very beginning of John's Gospel, he boldly proclaims that Jesus is indeed God (John 1:1-18). As a matter of fact, at the end of his Gospel, he gives the reason for writing it: "...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

**Acts** is the second book written by Luke. It is written to the same person, Theophilus, as his first book. It picks up immediately after the first volume left off, after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The book of Acts is about the disciples of Christ. Now they are called apostles. Now that Jesus has risen from the dead and gone to be with the Father, He has commanded His disciples to be His "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8b). The book of Acts is about the beginning of this mission, a mission that extends to us as disciples of Christ.

The first part of the book of Acts follows the early church and its leader, Peter. The second part of the book begins to follow Paul and how God used him to spread the "good news" of Jesus to many other places.

The book of Acts is a reminder to us as believers of how the Gospel is supposed to change us and how we are supposed to spread the Gospel, like Jesus commands us to do.

## Phase 1 (New Testament)

### Part 1--The Gospels & Acts

Week 1

Day 1 Luke 1-3
Day 2 Luke 4-6
Day 3 Luke 7-9
Day 4 Luke 10-12
Day 5 Luke 13-15

Week 2

Day 1 Luke 16-18
Day 2 Luke 19-21
Day 3 Luke 22-24
Day 4 John 1-3
Day 5 John 4-6

Week 3

Day 1 John 7-9
Day 2 John 10-12
Day 3 John 13-15
Day 4 John 16-18
Day 5 John 19-21

Week 4

Day 1 Acts 1-3
Day 2 Acts 4-7
Day 3 Acts 8-10
Day 4 Acts 11-13
Day 5 Acts 14-16

Week 5

Day 1 Acts 17-19
Day 2 Acts 20-22
Day 3 Acts 23-25
Day 4 Acts 26-28

## Phase 1 (New Testament)

### Part 2--The Epistles & Revelation

The Epistles are letters written to churches or individuals covering a variety of subjects. The purpose of the letters are to instruct both proper theology and the working out of that theology in the individual or church circumstance. Paul is the author of the section of Scripture from Romans to Philemon. The writer of Hebrews remains unknown. The other epistles in the New Testament are authored by the person bearing the name of the letter: James, Peter, John or Jude.

The reading plan for the Epistles are arranged in an order that will be easiest to understand and most profitable for the growing Christian.

This section begins with **Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians**. The first half of each of these letters is focused on what God has done for us through Jesus. The second half of each letter then tells us how we should act as believers because of what Jesus has done for us.

The General Epistles **(James-Jude)** cover a lot of different subjects. They were concerned with the believer's understanding of proper Christian living in a world that didn't like them very much **(1 Peter)**. They were also concerned with false teaching that was entering the church **(2 Peter, 1 & 2 John, Jude)**. And they were concerned with how Christians were supposed to treat one another **(James, 3 John)**.

The Personal Epistles of Paul are letters that he wrote to specific people who bear the name of the letters he wrote. **1 & 2 Timothy** and **Titus**, also called the Pastoral Epistles, are focused on leadership within the church, as Timothy & Titus were leaders. **Philemon** is focused on reconciliation.

The letters of **1 & 2 Corinthians** focus on the life of the early church and reveal that the church has never been perfect and has always been a place for broken people learning what it means to be a people of God.

The letters of **1 & 2 Thessalonians** focus on encouragement under persecution and a reminder to those suffering that this world is not our home and Christ has already won the victory.

The letter of **Galatians** confronts a false teaching that Jesus' sacrifice wasn't enough alone to save, but they had to become Jews after accepting Christ. It is written in urgency so there isn't a section of encouragement at the beginning of the letter like Paul's other letters.

The last three books to be read are **Romans, Hebrews & Revelation**. These are the last because they are the hardest to understand. What makes them hard are the many Old Testament references found in these books. Therefore, they are perfect to end with before plunging into the Old Testament.

**Romans** is Paul's great explanation and defense of the Christian faith. In it, he describes how Jesus both fulfills the promises given to Abraham, the forefather of the Jews and opens the way for both Jew and Gentile to have their sins forgiven through Christ's sacrifice.

The book of **Hebrews** takes many of the Old Testament passages concerning the Tabernacle, the High Priest and the sacrifices (found in Exodus & Leviticus) and shows how each of these pointed to Jesus as the fulfillment of these things observed by the Jews.

**Revelation** is the only prophetic book found in the New Testament. Many of the visions and promises found in this book actually have their origins in the Old Testament prophets. The persecuted church was reminded that Jesus was both the one who had the spirit of prophecy and had already won the ultimate victory.

## Phase 1 (New Testament)

### Part 2--The Epistles & Revelation

Week 1

Day 1 Ephesians 1-3
Day 2 Ephesians 4-6
Day 3 Philippians 1-4
Day 4 Colossians 1-4
Day 5 James 1-3

Week 2

Day 1 James 4-5
Day 2 1 Peter 1-3
Day 3 1 Peter 4-5
Day 4 2 Peter 1-3, Jude
Day 5 1 John 1-3

Week 3

Day 1 1 John 4-5, 2 John, 3 John
Day 2 1 Timothy 1-3
Day 3 1 Timothy 4-6
Day 4 2 Timothy 1-4
Day 5 Titus 1-3, Philemon

Week 4

Day 1 1 Corinthians 1-3
Day 2 1 Corinthians 4-6
Day 3 1 Corinthians 7-9
Day 4 1 Corinthians 10-13
Day 5 1 Corinthians 14-16

Week 5

Day 1 2 Corinthians 1-3
Day 2 2 Corinthians 4-7
Day 3 2 Corinthians 8-10
Day 4 2 Corinthians 11-13
Day 5 1 Thessalonians 1-3

Week 6

Day 1 1 Thessalonians 4-5
Day 2 2 Thessalonians 1-3
Day 3 Galatians 1-3
Day 4 Galatians 4-6
Day 5 Romans 1-3

## Phase 1 (New Testament)

### Part 2--The Epistles & Revelation cont.

Week 7

Day 1 Romans 4-6
Day 2 Romans 7-9
Day 3 Romans 10-13
Day 4 Romans 14-16
Day 5 Hebrews 1-3

Week 8

Day 1 Hebrews 4-7
Day 2 Hebrews 8-10
Day 3 Hebrews 11-13
Day 4 Revelation 1-3
Day 5 Revelation 4-6

Week 9

Day 1 Revelation 7-9
Day 2 Revelation 10-13
Day 3 Revelation 14-16
Day 4 Revelation 17-19
Day 5 Revelation 20-22

# Phase 2 (Old Testament)

## Part 1--The Pentateuch

The first 5 books of the Bible are known as the Pentateuch. They are also known as the books of Moses, as Moses is the author of these books.

**Genesis** is all about beginnings. The beginning of the universe, the beginning of life, the beginning of humanity, the beginning of sin, the beginning of God's story of redemption, the beginning of nations & the beginning of God's special people Israel.

**Exodus** is about the Israelites escape from Egypt by the hand of God to become a people of their own. The ten commandments are given to the people and the tabernacle is constructed so the people can worship God.

**Leviticus** is about the sacrifices and festivals that the people of God were supposed to observe. Sacrifices were done for both sin and for praise. Because Jesus is the fulfillment of the sacrificial system, we do not sacrifice today. However, by learning some of these sacrifices in our first read through, we will understand life for the Israelites better and see how Jesus fulfilled what they practiced.

**Numbers** is about the time of wandering in the desert for 40 years before entering the land of promise. The males of every household were counted at the beginning of the journey (in chapter 1) and near the end of the journey (in chapter 26), hence the name Numbers given to the book.

**Deuteronomy** is the second telling of the law of God given to Israel right before they were to enter the land of promise. These were the rules which the people of Israel agreed to live by to be called the people of God.

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 1--The Pentateuch

Week 1

Day 1 Genesis 1-3
Day 2 Genesis 4-6
Day 3 Genesis 7-9
Day 4 Genesis 10-12
Day 5 Genesis 13-15

Week 2

Day 1 Genesis 16-18
Day 2 Genesis 19-21
Day 3 Genesis 22-24
Day 4 Genesis 25-27
Day 5 Genesis 28-30

Week 3

Day 1 Genesis 31-33
Day 2 Genesis 34-36
Day 3 Genesis 37-39
Day 4 Genesis 40-42
Day 5 Genesis 43-45

Week 4

Day 1 Genesis 46-48
Day 2 Genesis 49-50
Day 3 Exodus 1-3
Day 4 Exodus 4-6
Day 5 Exodus 7-9

Week 5

Day 1 Exodus 10-12
Day 2 Exodus 13-15
Day 3 Exodus 16-18
Day 4 Exodus 19-20
Day 5 Exodus 31-32

Week 6

Day 1 Exodus 33-34
Day 2 Exodus 35, 40
Day 3 Leviticus 16, 19, 23
Day 4 Leviticus 25-27
Day 5 Numbers 11-13

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 1--The Pentateuch cont.

Week 7

Day 1 Numbers 14, 16-17
Day 2 Numbers 20-22
Day 3 Numbers 23-25
Day 4 Deuteronomy 1-3
Day 5 Deuteronomy 4-6

Week 8

Day 1 Deuteronomy 7-9
Day 2 Deuteronomy 10-12
Day 3 Deuteronomy 13-15
Day 4 Deuteronomy 16-18
Day 5 Deuteronomy 19-21

Week 9

Day 1 Deuteronomy 22-24
Day 2 Deuteronomy 25-27
Day 3 Deuteronomy 28-30
Day 4 Deuteronomy 31-32
Day 5 Deuteronomy 33-34

# Phase 2 (Old Testament)

## Part 2--The History of Israel

The books of **Joshua-Esther** tell of the history of the people of Israel from the entry of the Promised Land to their eventual exile and finally return to the land God had promised them.

In these books you will learn of the Israelites entry into the Land of Promise **(Joshua)**, the faulty leadership of the judges in conquering the land **(Judges)**, the rise of the kingship **(1 Samuel)**, the king after God's own heart **(2 Samuel)**, the wisest of all kings and the splitting of the kingdom into two: Israel and Judah **(1 Kings)**, the path of destruction by both kingdoms of Israel and Judah that would lead the people of Israel to exile away from the Land of Promise **(2 Kings)**.

However, we also see the faithfulness of God in the return of His people Israel to the Land of Promise, as the return to their faithfulness to God **(Nehemiah)**.

While we will not read every book in the history of Israel, we will read enough to understand the special relationship God had with His people Israel, and wants to have with us today through His Son, Jesus.

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 2--The History of Israel

Week 1

Day 1 Joshua 1-2
Day 2 Joshua 3-4
Day 3 Joshua 5-7
Day 4 Joshua 8-9
Day 5 Joshua 10-11

Week 2

Day 1 Joshua 22-24
Day 2 Judges 1-3
Day 3 Judges 4-6
Day 4 Judges 7-9
Day 5 Judges 10-12

Week 3

Day 1 Judges 13-15
Day 2 Judges 16-18
Day 3 Judges 19-21
Day 4 1 Samuel 1-3
Day 5 1 Samuel 4-6

Week 4

Day 1 1 Samuel 7-9
Day 2 1 Samuel 10-12
Day 3 1 Samuel 13-15
Day 4 1 Samuel 16-18
Day 5 1 Samuel 19-21

Week 5

Day 1 1 Samuel 22-24
Day 2 1 Samuel 25-28
Day 3 1 Samuel 29-31
Day 4 2 Samuel 1-3
Day 5 2 Samuel 4-6

Week 6

Day 1 2 Samuel 7-9
Day 2 2 Samuel 10-12
Day 3 2 Samuel 13-15
Day 4 2 Samuel 16-18
Day 5 2 Samuel 19-21

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 2--The History of Israel cont.

Week 7

Day 1 2 Samuel 22-24
Day 2 1 Kings 1-3
Day 3 1 Kings 4-6
Day 4 1 Kings 7-9
Day 5 1 Kings 10-12

Week 8

Day 1 1 Kings 13-15
Day 2 1 Kings 16-18
Day 3 1 Kings 19-20
Day 4 1 Kings 21-22
Day 5 1 Kings 1-3

Week 9

Day 1 2 Kings 4-6
Day 2 2 Kings 7-9
Day 3 2 Kings 10-12
Day 4 2 Kings 13-15
Day 5 2 Kings 16-18

Week 10

Day 1 2 Kings 19-21
Day 2 2 Kings 22-23
Day 3 2 Kings 24-25
Day 4 Nehemiah 1-3
Day 5 Nehemiah 4-6

Week 11

Day 1 Nehemiah 7-9
Day 2 Nehemiah 10-11
Day 3 Nehemiah 12-13

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 3--The Writings/The Wisdom Literature

The Writings of the Old Testament include poetry, songs and proverbs. As with the other sections of the Old Testament, the oldest writing is first **(Job)**, while the latest writing is last **(Song of Songs,** also known as **Song of Solomon)**.

**Job** is a book that takes an in-depth look at suffering, especially the suffering of the righteous.

**Psalms** are songs that were written by men through the influence of the Holy Spirit. There are many prophecies about Jesus that are found in the Psalms. There are also many songs of praise, thanksgiving, lament and even righteous anger.

**Proverbs** are wise saying that are founded in "the fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7). They are general truths and not promises of God.

**Ecclesiastes** is a book that explores the idea of what makes life meaningful and comes to the conclusion that without God, everything is meaningless.

**Song of Songs** looks at the beauty of intimacy when grounded in God's covenant of marriage.

In our readings, we will focus on ***Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes***. Through the Writings, we begin to understand why faithful men have always praised God.

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 3--The Writings/The Wisdom Literature

Week 1

Day 1 Psalm 1-5
Day 2 Psalm 6-10
Day 3 Psalm 11-15
Day 4 Psalm 16-20
Day 5 Psalm 21-25

Week 2

Day 1 Psalm 31-33
Day 2 Psalm 35-37
Day 3 Psalm 40-43
Day 4 Psalm 45-48
Day 5 Psalm 50-54

Week 3

Day 1 Psalm 61-64
Day 2 Psalm 69-71
Day 3 Psalm 77-78
Day 4 Psalm 84-87
Day 5 Psalm 88-90

Week 4

Day 1 Psalm 91-94
Day 2 Psalm 95-98
Day 3 Psalm 103-105
Day 4 Psalm 106-107
Day 5 Psalm 115-118

Week 5

Day 1 Psalm 119:1-32
Day 2 Psalm 119:33-72
Day 3 Psalm 119:73-104
Day 4 Psalm 119:105-144
Day 5 Psalm 119:145-176

Week 6

Day 1 Psalm 120-124
Day 2 Psalm 125-130
Day 3 Psalm 139-143
Day 4 Psalm 144-146
Day 5 Psalm 147-150

## Part 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 3--The Writings/The Wisdom Literature cont.

Week 7

Day 1 Proverbs 1-3
Day 2 Proverbs 4-6
Day 3 Proverbs 7-9
Day 4 Proverbs 10-12
Day 5 Proverbs 13-15

Week 8

Day 1 Proverbs 16-19
Day 2 Proverbs 20-22
Day 3 Proverbs 23-25
Day 4 Proverbs 26-28
Day 5 Proverbs 29-31

Week 9

Day 1 Ecclesiastes 1-3
Day 2 Ecclesiastes 4-6
Day 3 Ecclesiastes 7-9
Day 4 Ecclesiastes 10-12

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 4--The Prophets

Prophets were men of God who were given special messages to the people of Israel. Prophets often pointed back to the Law (the Pentateuch) to remind the people of Israel of the promise they made to God to follow Him. Prophets also warned the people of the consequences of disobedience to the Law of God and how their disobedience would bring judgment (see Deuteronomy 28-30).

The prophets are broken up into two groups in the Bible: *The Major Prophets* **(Isaiah-Daniel)** and *the Minor Prophets* **(Hosea-Malachi)**. The only difference between the Major or Minor Prophets is the amount they wrote. Major Prophets wrote more than the Minor Prophets. However, both are equally important, because in the writings of the prophets, we have the Word of God (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Each of these sections are in order with the earliest Major or Minor Prophet first and the latest Major or Minor Prophet last.

Many of the prophets give the names of the kings who were ruling either Israel or Judah, or even Babylon & Persia during the time of their ministry. Major prophets like **Isaiah, Jeremiah & Daniel** ministered during the reigns of many kings. Some Minor Prophets like **Micah** did, as well. Other prophets, like **Haggai & Malachi** served after the Babylonian exile during the time of rebuilding in conjunction with **Nehemiah**. Identifying when the prophets ministered can help in understanding the message they delivered from God better.

Though we will not read all the prophets, through them we will hear of God's relationship to His people Israel and the promise of the One who was to come to be the Savior of the whole world...Jesus.

## Phase 2 (Old Testament)

### Part 4--The Prophets

Week 1

Day 1 Isaiah 1-3
Day 2 Isaiah 4-6
Day 3 Isaiah 7-9
Day 4 Isaiah 10-12
Day 5 Isaiah 36-38

Week 2

Day 1 Isaiah 39-41
Day 2 Isaiah 42-44
Day 3 Isaiah 45-47
Day 4 Isaiah 48-50
Day 5 Isaiah 51-53

Week 3

Day 1 Isaiah 54-56
Day 2 Isaiah 57-59
Day 3 Isaiah 60-62
Day 4 Isaiah 63-64
Day 5 Isaiah 65-66

Week 4

Day 1 Jeremiah 1-3
Day 2 Jeremiah 4-6
Day 3 Jeremiah 7-9
Day 4 Jeremiah 10-12
Day 5 Jeremiah 13-15

Week 5

Day 1 Jeremiah 16-18
Day 2 Jeremiah 19-20
Day 3 Jeremiah 39-41
Day 4 Jeremiah 42-44
Day 5 Jeremiah 30-31

Week 6

Day 1 Daniel 1-3
Day 2 Daniel 4-6
Day 3 Jonah 1-4
Day 4 Micah 1-3
Day 5 Micah 4-5

Week 7

Day 1 Micah 6-7
Day 2 Nahum 1-3
Day 3 Haggai 1-2
Day 4 Malachi 1-2
Day 5 Malachi 3-4

## Phase 3 (The Whole Bible Chronologically)

This blueprint recommends "The Daily Bible" by F. LaGard Smith to read the Bible chronologically. In this unique edition, the Bible is chronologically read in 365 daily selections. Because of the background given in Phase 1 & 2 of the reading plan, the reader will more easily understand as the Daily Bible weaves from the history of King David to the Psalms that he wrote, the history of King Solomon and the Proverbs he wrote, the downfall of Israel and Judah and the warnings of the Prophets living during that time, the life of Jesus as a unified whole, and, the early church and the letters of Paul. Beyond the chronological approach, there is commentary in appropriate spots in the readings that help explain the background or history of a section just read or about to be read and how it connects the story of the Bible as a unified whole.

Because "The Daily Bible" is a 365 day reading plan, it doesn't have the flexibility of missed days as the other plans have. If you are ready for a daily commitment in reading the Word of God, great! However, it can be tailored to the same reading regimen as the other plans, if so desired, to provide more flexibility (5 days a week vs. 7 days a week). Either way, you must not stress over "missed days" and commit to reading one entry a day, even if you miss a day or two or even a week. The 5 day a week plan will take about ½ year longer to complete reading the Bible. Remember, the goal is to read the Bible, not complete some task in a certain timeframe.

After having read the Daily Bible, the reader will be able to enjoy the Word of God for the rest of their lives.

## Suggested Reading Lists & Additional Resources

In this blueprint, we have included suggested reading lists for your growing child. We have tried to account for their reading level and the subjects that would be appropriate at their age and maturity level. These lists are by no means exhaustive, but they are a good place for your child to begin to grow in important areas of discipleship. Our goal was to give a number of reliable books of many different subjects and genres, enough to give variety but not to overwhelm with too many choices.

Our "Suggested Reading Lists" include one for Year 1, one for Year 2 and one for Years 3-5. Each list has 17 suggestions, therefore, the unused portion of the Year 1 list can be used by a person in Year 2 and both the unused portions of the Year 1 & Year 2 lists can be used by those in Years 3-5. However, since the lists are constructed to challenge students at their level of maturity, it is highly recommended that most of their book selections take place within their assigned reading stage.

Our blueprint recommends 4-5 books per year. Of course, for the voracious reader, more could be done, if desired. After the completion of their 5th year, your youth/young adult should have read between 20-25 books, leaving another 25-30 books for them to explore as young adults.

Our "Additional Resources" page includes a number of podcasts, websites, YouTube channels and other media that provide a wide range of resources that will help your child (and you) grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

Finally is our "Suggested Reading for Parents" page mainly geared toward parenting. For further discipleship, we recommend parents also use the reading lists for students, as well as, the other additional resources provided.

## Year 1-- Suggested Reading

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Quit Church by Chris Sonksen

The Kingdom Series by Chuck Black

The Christian Atheist by Craig Groeshel

Weird by Craig Groeshel

7 Men by Eric Metaxas

7 Women by Eric Metaxas

Not God's Type by Holly Ordway

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala

Refuting Evolution by Jonathan Sarfati

Coffee House Chronicles by Josh McDowell & Dave Sterrett

More than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman

The Case for Miracles by Lee Strobel

One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven by Mark Cahill

Which None Can Shut by Rhema Goode

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

## Year 2-- Suggested Reading

Surprised by Faith by Dr. Don Bierle

Letters to the Church by Francis Chan

The Prophet by Frank Peretti

Ask Me Anything by J. Budziszewski

Ask Me Anything 2 by J. Budziszewski

Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges

Fresh Faith by Jim Cymbala

Fresh Power by Jim Cymbala

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel

The Case for the Real Jesus by Lee Strobel

Relational Apologetics by Michael Sherrard

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus by Nabeel Quershi

Ethix by Sean McDowell

The Circle Series by Ted Dekker

Dreams & Visions by Tom Doyle

I am n by Voice of the Martyrs

## Years 3-5-- Suggested Reading

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer

Another Gospel by Alisa Childers

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Stealing from God by Frank Turek

Tactics by Gregory Koukl

The Hobbit/The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Cold Case Christianity by J. Warner Wallace

Forensic Faith by J. Warner Wallace

Giving Wisely by Jonathan Martin

Evidence for Christianity by Josh McDowell

The Unholy Trinity by Matt Walsh

The Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel

Defeating Darwinism by Phillip E. Johnson

Killing Christians by Tom Doyle

Family Driven Faith by Voddie Baucham

## Additional Resources

**Adventures in Odyssey--adventuresinodyssey.com**

It is an award-winning audio drama series created for ages 8-12 and enjoyed by the whole family. Episodes often start with the grandfatherly Mr. Whittaker ("Whit"), who runs an ice cream shop called Whit's End. They last an average of twenty-five minutes and bring biblical principles to life, through a balance of fun, faith and imagination.

**Alisa Childers--alisachilders.com**

Alisa Childers is a writer/speaker who covers topics of Apologetics, Theology, Culture & Worship in her blogs, podcasts & books. Her specialty revolves around the danger of Progressive Christianity, how to recognize, defend against it and engage those who are caught in its web. An absolute must for the parent or High School teen navigating these waters.

**The Bible Recap--thebiblerecap.com**

Have you ever closed your Bible and thought, *"What did I just read?"*

The Bible Recap is here to help! It's a short daily podcast (about 8 minutes) hosted by Tara-Leigh Cobble. She has read through the Bible many times chronologically, and she'll highlight and summarize that day's Bible reading in a casual, easy to understand way. The Bible Recap will not only help you read Scripture but help you love reading it!

**Cooper Stuff--johnlcooper.com**

Lead singer of the Christian hard rock band "Skillet". He takes on the issues of the culture found in social media. Like his band's music, his observations and teachings are bold and full of biblical truth. His site includes links to his podcasts, his videos, his blogs, as well as, his other social media connections (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube).

**Cross Examined--crossexamined.org**

Cross Examined exists to address the problem that 3-out-of-4 Christian youth leave church while in college, many because they are intellectually skeptical. Cross Examined is an apologetic ministry designed to defend the Christian faith and address topics faced by young people today through speaking, blogs, podcasts & videos.

**Focus on the Family--focusonthefamily.com**

Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. They support families through a number of resources designed to help families teach their children about God and His beautiful design for the family, protect themselves from harmful influences of the culture and equip themselves to make a greater difference in the lives of those around them.

They also have ministries focused on evaluating media content from a biblical perspective (Plugged In) and a ministry specifically aimed toward young adults (Boundless).

**Krista Bontrager--theologymom.com**

Krista is a theologian with a mother's heart. This makes her especially effective in conveying theological truths and applying them to real life situations. Her Facebook page is filled with great articles from a number of topics helpful for the growing teen or parent wishing to guide their teen to a better understanding of Christian faith in a fallen world. She has a podcast with Monique Duson called "All the Things" which is a weekly conversation about cultural issues of the day through the lens of the historic Christian worldview. Highly recommended for parents & High Schoolers.

**Natasha Crain--natashacrain.com**

She is a speaker, author, podcaster and blogger whose passion is to equip Christian parents to raise kids with an understanding of how to make a case for and defend their faith in an increasingly secular world. Whether you have young kids, teens, adult kids or grandkids, you'll find the resources here to better equip you for the challenges of discipleship today.

**One Minute Apologist--oneminuteapologist.com**

Bobby Conway is the One Minute Apologist. He provides quick, credible answers to apologetic questions that resource people with a hunger to defend their Christian faith. These brief videos (often less than 5 minutes) are meant to be a starting point to dig deeper into the various topics discussed. His interviews are with many of the well known, leading Christian apologists. These are great introductory videos for youth and adults of all ages.

**The Next Generation Ministries--thenextgenerationministries.com**

The Next Generation Ministries exists to equip parents to help them disciple their children into mature believers in Christ. The Next Generation Facebook page is designed to provide reliable resources in the form of trusted blogs, articles & videos for the purpose of equipping parents to disciple their children. The Next Generation's "Discipleship Begins @ Home" podcast gives practical advice and resources to parents with children of all ages to help them on this journey to discipleship.

**Unbelievable? Podcast--premierchristianradio.com**

Each Saturday, Justin Brierley asks questions like: Is there evidence for God? Can we trust the Bible? Did Jesus rise from the dead? Justin tackles these and other issues on a show that gets Christians & skeptics talking. This is a great podcast for High School youth and adults who are well grounded in their faith for an introduction to differing worldviews and how the Christian worldview provides robust answers to life and faith.

**Whaddo You Meme??--YouTube Channel**

Jon McCray has a YouTube channel called Whaddo You Meme?? that tackles current events and anti-Christian content found in culture and social media. His videos are generally under 10 minutes and are a great primer to discussing cultural issues and anti-Christian arguments with your Jr. High or High School teen.

## Suggested Reading for Parents

Parenting Isn't for Cowards by Dr. James Dobson

Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Mentoring of Teens
Joe White & Jim Weidmann, General Editors

Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children
John Trent, Ph.D, Rick Osborne, Kurt Bruner, General Editors

Keeping Your Kids on God's Side by Natasha Crain

Talking with Your Kids About God by Natasha Crain

Talking with Your Kids About Jesus by Natasha Crain

Finishing Strong by Steve Farrar

Family Driven Faith by Voddie Baucham Jr.

**So you want to disciple your children but don't know where or how to start. Our Discipleship Begins @ Home Blueprints were created for you!**

Our ***5 Year Plan*** is designed for Parents and their older children (6th Grade and above) beginning the discipleship process. Through this blueprint both the parents and youth will be challenged to grow in their faith at an age appropriate level leading to maturity in six areas of discipline: Bible Reading, Prayer, Fellowship, Outreach/Service, Discipleship & Giving.

This step-by-step process was created to give confidence to parents that they were doing all they should in fulfilling Jesus' command to raise our children in the Lord. You can do this! Our blueprint is here to help.

For parents with children younger than 6th Grade, we recommend the ***Discipleship for Life*** edition, which guides parents from birth through 12th Grade.

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The Next Generation Ministries exists to equip parents to help them disciple their children into mature believers in Christ. We offer Biblical advice, practical teaching and other tools to aid parents to make "training their children in the way they should go" attainable.

It is our desire to partner with churches to help pastors and teachers come alongside parents and help create a plan of discipleship and growth for their children.

For more information on our resources or to invite us to speak at your church, check out our website: www.thenextgenerationministries.com