

Bible Reading

*Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you **continue in my word**, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32*

Members of Jump Groups set a goal to read 28+ chapters of the Bible each week, an average of 4 per day. (At first this simple goal will seem impossible to achieve; don't let this discourage you.) Most groups choose a book of the Bible and read it at this pace. The goal is to read these chapters every week - some weeks you might read less, but read the same chapters over and over again. Groups of 2-4 persons stay with the same book of the Bible until everyone has completed the reading. In one week with this plan you can read Matthew once (28 chapters) or Colossians 7 times (4 chapters).

This method of reading the same section of Scripture over and over has several advantages. First, you can read it like a newspaper - read over it all, but you don't need to concentrate on every word. Second, by reading the same chapters over and over you will eventually memorize them without any significant effort. Third, your familiarity over multiple readings will result in sudden insights as God opens up deeper meanings and connects the various ideas together. Fourth, you are building a good habit of reading God's word regularly.

Some people don't enjoy reading, so even one chapter a day is a challenge for them. Yet even one chapter read daily until it is familiar can make a tremendous difference in our spiritual life. **Don't worry about it . . . just do it!**

Your pastor, as well as Emmaus community spiritual directors, are always available to answer questions about a Bible passage and its meaning. Just ask - but you'll be surprised how much you learn in several weeks of reading. **Why not start with the Gospel of Matthew this week?**

Questions

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."
Matthew 7:7-8

1. *Begin with a prayer of rededication, like the Centering Prayer or one like it.*
 2. *At what moment this past week did you feel closest to Christ?*
 3. *At what moment during this week did you feel you were responding to God's call to be a disciple? Where did you participate in being the Church this week, the heartbeat of Christ?*
 4. *Discipleship denied: When was your faith tested this week through failure?*
 5. *What did you hear from Jesus through prayer about His will for your life this past week? What are you going to do about it? **What is your plan for spirituality this coming week?***
 6. *What chapters in the Bible did you read? What is God telling you through what you read? What are you going to do about it? **What is your plan for study this coming week?***
- JUMP "lite" - levels if these are too challenging:
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|--------------|-----|------------------------|
| Kindergarten | 0 | Bible chapters a week |
| Elementary: | 1-6 | Bible chapters a week |
| Freshman: | 7+ | chapters a week (25%) |
| Sophomore: | 14+ | chapters a week (50%) |
| Junior: | 21+ | chapters a week (75%) |
| Senior: | 28+ | chapters a week (100%) |
7. *How are you loving your neighbors? **What is your plan for Christian action this week?***
 8. *As a maker of disciples, who are you praying for to find Christ? What conversations have you had? How was God present? What's happening in their lives? What are you going to do next?*

Partnership

*"For where **two or three** are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*
Matthew 18:20

Something unique happens when we become partners in faith with one to three other people. We learn more, and we enjoy it more. Jesus says, literally, that He is present in a unique way when two or three people gather.

You can grow spiritually through your own private prayers, but your growth can be doubled if you meet with another, and tripled if you and your partner invest yourselves in a third and fourth person.

Spiritual partners meet together once a week at a convenient time for about an hour or less. During that time you answer the Questions honestly.

Here are some tips for choosing a spiritual partner:

1. *Partners should be of the same sex - men with men and women with women.*
2. *A partnership of two will open up to include a third and fourth person, and then open further into 2 groups of 2 persons.*
3. *Partnerships are not forever - these spiritual friendships of two to four persons are very flexible, forming and reforming as seems to be meaningful. This allows meaningful spiritual friendships to develop with a variety of people and builds a spiritual network within a church.*
4. *Partnerships change because growth results in change; you will always remain connected to each other by the time you have shared.*
5. *Sometimes your partner is someone who can help you; sometimes it's someone you can help.*

If no one comes to mind as a partner for you after prayer, consider asking your pastor and/or a leader in your Emmaus community for suggestions.