



Welcome to **#FamilyBibleRead2018**, a new 60-Day Bible reading adventure.

For the past two years I've been inspiring people to read the entire Bible in 60 days! No kidding. I call it *Power Reading*—it's a fast paced, hurry-up style of reading where folks spend roughly an hour (or more) a day reading large chunks of scripture. The results have been wonderful—people love the experience and have learned so much.

But I wanted to try something new for Summer 2018. Here are a few distinctions:

1. ***Reduced Reading Plan** - Instead of reading the entire Bible, we're tracking about 40% of the Bible. The plan focuses on the overall narrative, the big-picture story of the Bible. Instead of reading an hour a day, this plan involves 20-35 minutes (about 8 chapters) a day.
2. **Family Focused** - We're specifically focused on engaging families. We desire to see moms and dads, sisters and brothers reading the Bible as a family.

So for 60 days this summer, my family will be reading the Bible together. I invite your family to join us! And each week I'll send out a few emails to encourage you and share some highlights along the way.

[The 40% plan excludes: certain portions of the Law (i.e. Leviticus), most of poetry and prophet books and New Testament epistles. The Plan focuses on the Bible's history books.]

Getting Started

Below are some tips for getting started with the family reading journey.

An important note: these are guidelines, helps, suggestions. **They are NOT rules.** You set your own rules. :-)

1. Select your Bible

Recommend a Bible with NO notes or commentaries

Consider reading a new Bible or one that does not have your notes, markings from the past (not crucial)

Choose a readable translation (like ESV, NIV, NASB, etc.) but AVOID paraphrases (The Message, etc). If you've done a Bible read through before, perhaps try a new translation for fun.

Large print, easy-to-read font is helpful to the eyes.

I like a physical-Bible in my hands for this experience, but if you are the e-reader type, go for it. (Parent note: because teenagers are always on their phones, I still prefer mine to read a physical Bible).

2. Set your reading schedule/rhythm

Reading Plan - Download and print here:

<https://jeffandersonauthor.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/60-Day-Family-Bible-Read-40-plan-Jeff-Anderson.pdf>

Set aside thirty minutes a day to start and find your pace. For some readers, it might be shorter. For others, longer.

Highly recommend some morning reading, but that's personal preference.

Long reading stretches are preferable to frequent starts and stops (the brain takes time to engage the reading process)

3. Strategy

Keep your Bible with you wherever you go (prime reading opportunities are often unexpected)

Don't try to comprehend everything - keep moving! (see Power and Speed section below).

Have a note pad nearby to jot down notes, questions, big observations for later reflection. I'm a big fan of taking a highlighter straight to the pages.

4. Rule #1 - NO GUILT. If you get behind:

Again, NO guilt (avoid the trap).

Avoid getting behind!! :-)

If necessary, catch-up on weekends with marathon reading sessions.

If you become overwhelmed or have unexpected "life" thrown at you, reset your goals/plan (If your 60 day plan becomes 75 or 90 or... that's still awesome!)

5. Mindset

The goal is not to understand everything you read. I know that sounds crazy, but it's true. Bible comprehension involves a lifetime of reading. But you'll be surprised how much you'll learn without having to fully track everything you read.

It's OK to speed-read. In fact, for my full, 100% Bible reading plan, I encourage a fast, hurry-up reading pace. This reduced 40% Bible reading plan will allow you to slow down and capture more of the reading experience – but some of the content still warrants a faster reading pace (see Power and Speed below).

6. Reading Together as a Family

Reading together as a family doesn't necessarily mean "reading

together.” Confused? What I mean is, we’re following the same reading plan together, but we’re reading independently.

Reading 5 or 10 minute devotions might work with the entire family in one setting. But reading 40% of the Bible in 60 days (in 30-minute chunks) may likely require some isolation.

However, if you’re able to corral the family in one setting and do family reads, go for it!

For my family, my teenage boys will read on their own. And I will read separately from my wife. I do plan to accomplish some reading with my ten-year old, but will be flexible on what this looks like. Just be flexible and explore.

I have heard parents (mainly moms) share about listening to the audio Bible while driving around town for carpools, trips, etc. So consider that an option.

The real “together” gold is finding opportunities as a family to connect and discuss what you’re reading. This can be done at meal times, car trips, or planned family meetings. It may not be daily, but aim for at least weekly.

7. Supplemental Resources

For parents seeking discussion material, see my weekly emails.

For further discussion opportunities, I recommend [*Power Read*](#). The book contains “60 days” of helpful insights that will trigger thoughts and discussion as you read through the Bible. The book accompanies the full Bible read experience, but you’ll be able to cherry pick content for the Family Bible Reading Plan.

Power and Speed

In my book, [*Power Read*](#), where I present the full 60-day Bible reading journey, I propose a unique style of Bible engagement. It's the opposite of scripture meditation, or Bible study. It's not even casual reading. It's what I call "Power Reading."

It's like watching an NFL football game in 15 minutes.

I'm told that an actual NFL game can be viewed in only 11 minutes. The rest of the 3+ hours of network programming is time in the huddle, calling plays, or just running off the clock... it's commercials... it's the camera panning the crowd, the sidelines, the cheerleaders, or Jerry Jones in his suite.

The Power Read is a "hurry-up" read experience. The goal is NOT to understand everything. The benefits are different. Familiarity. Big picture. Making the Bible smaller and less intimidating.

When you're reading along and locked in to the content, feel free to read more slowly and leisurely. If you enter a stretch that feels more difficult to read, then pick up the pace.

Sounds backward doesn't it? The traditional approach to any text suggests reading slowly what you don't understand and reading quickly through the familiar content. But I propose the opposite.

Bible reading should be a lifelong activity. And you have the rest of your life to read the more challenging sections of the Bible.

Most importantly, you control the pace. When you want to read fast – pick up the pace. When you want to read more slowly, then slow down.

Remember, it's YOUR plan and YOU determine the rules.

Finding your speed will be a work in progress the first few days.

Inviting your teens

In 2016, I accepted the challenge to read the Bible in 60 days. Since then I've led hundreds of people, from all around the world, through a power-read journey of the scriptures.

But this Summer, I wanted to help families, including their teen children, have the experience of seeing the big picture of the Bible.

So I've planned an opportunity (see link below) for you to read the Bible as a family *for* 60 days. Instead of reading the entire Bible, this reading plan covers forty percent of the text and seeks to provide that end-to-end grasp of the most important story ever told.

You may be wondering, *How in the world can I get my teens to read the Bible this Summer?* Here are some ideas I'll be considering with my own family, and friends who want to participate. (We have two teenage boys and a younger daughter at home).

1. **Just tell them:** “Hey boys, we’re reading the Bible this summer. For 60 days you’ll have a reading plan to follow. If you spend about 20-30 minutes a day, you’ll be able to read forty percent of the Bible in two months! Your mother and I will be reading, too. Sound good? Great!”
2. **Bribe them:** “Hey boys, the family is going to read the Bible this summer. To help you prioritize, we’re going to trade you Bible reading minutes for Xbox time. That’s right. If you want to play Fortnite, you have to read your Bible first. Sound like a deal?”
3. **Inspire them:** “Hey boys, you know how every time you go to a church camp or retreat (or just about any church youth event) you’re told to read your Bible? Well, what if instead of waiting for that mountain top experience to be challenged, you get ahead and start reading *before* you go to camp?”
4. **Reason with them:** “Hey boys, Mom and I regret that we’ve let Bible engagement slip in our home. God’s Word really is important to us and we want to do a better job reading the Bible at home. This summer we’re going to read it for sixty days.”

5. **Guilt them:** “Hey boys, I realize that watching the NBA playoffs ranks right up there with food, water, and sunlight. And playoffs have been going on for six months it seems, and there must be another 108 games to go. I wonder how many times we could have read the Bible while watching these playoff games that no one really cares about?”

There are lots of ways to tell your kids that your family will be Bible reading this summer. Think about your own family context and what makes most sense.

If the idea of summer Bible reading causes your teens to look at you like you're a creature from outer space, you might need a more serious sit-down meeting, and a chance to ask forgiveness for your soft leadership, and to share your heart on why this is important for your family.

I do this all the time. “Kids, Dad has not done a good job prioritizing God’s Word for our family...” Then we get back on track.

If you'd like a free, simple guide to lead your family this summer, click here: <https://jeffandersonauthor.com/for60>

Like any spiritual discipline, reading the Bible sometimes requires re-starts. Modeling humble re-engagement will help your teens know that they can re-engage with God throughout their lives.

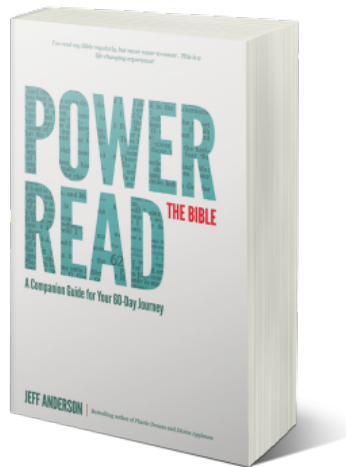
Make sure you're receiving my emails (check your SPAM folder) and get ready to dive in!

And I cherish your questions and feedback, which helps me shape this experience for others.

Jeff Anderson

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Want to read the entire Bible in 60 Days, and enjoy daily guidance along the way?



<https://jeffandersonauthor.com/power-read-nav/>