

midtown M E S S E N G E R

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The Connection Between Bible Reading and Spiritual Growth: Why a Plan Matters

By: Selected

Why Consistent Bible Reading Is Essential for Spiritual Growth

Regular time in Scripture is one of the most transformative habits a believer can develop. It brings clarity when life feels uncertain, peace during hardship, and wisdom for daily decision-making. As Psalm 119:105 reminds us, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Reading the Bible consistently allows God’s Word to guide your thoughts, actions, and heart.

In many ways, engaging in Scripture daily has parallels to mindfulness and meditation. Just as Mayo Clinic notes that meditation improves focus and well-being, a daily habit of reading God’s Word strengthens spiritual focus and emotional resilience. By committing to a routine, you’re training your heart and mind to center on truth each day.

The Power of Having a Bible Reading Plan

A Bible reading plan is simply a structured schedule that assigns passages to read each day or week. It removes the guesswork of deciding where to begin and keeps you moving through the Word with purpose. Instead of feeling overwhelmed by the size of the Bible, a plan breaks it down into manageable sections.

There are many types of reading plans to choose from: chronological (in the order events occurred), thematic (focused on a topic or theme), one-year plans, or shorter 30-day plans. According to the Pew Research Center, consistent Bible engagement is linked to higher reported levels of peace and satisfaction among Christians. That’s because a plan turns reading into a sustainable spiritual habit rather than a sporadic activity.

How a Reading Plan Encourages Accountability and Reflection

Having a plan also helps you stay accountable. You’re more likely to read daily when you know exactly what comes next. Pairing your reading with journaling or reflection questions can deepen your understanding of

God’s Word. Write down key insights, prayers, or verses that stand out.

Technology can also support your journey. Apps like YouVersion or Bible.com offer free, customizable plans that send daily reminders and allow you to track progress. Local congregations like us often provide printed plans or group studies to encourage participation and discussion.

Combining Your Bible Reading Plan with Community Support

Your personal time in Scripture can grow even more meaningful when paired with fellowship and discussion. Consider joining Midtown church of Christ at a weekly Bible study, where you can share insights, ask questions, and learn alongside others pursuing the same goal. If you ever feel uncertain or have questions during your readings, reaching out to fellow believers can provide clarity and encouragement.

Personal devotion is powerful, but when combined with shared study, it brings Scripture to life in new ways. By connecting with others through a Bible study at Midtown church of Christ, you’ll find accountability, deeper understanding, and a sense of community that supports your spiritual growth.

Strengthen Your Walk with Daily Bible Reading

A structured Bible reading plan is more than just a schedule. It’s a pathway to spiritual renewal. It builds consistency, deepens understanding, and draws you closer to God one passage at a time. If you’ve struggled to stay on track, start small today and watch how daily time in Scripture transforms your outlook and strengthens your walk with Christ. We invite you to join us at Midtown church of Christ for a Bible study, or reach out with any questions about starting your own plan. Whether you begin with a few verses a day or a full-year schedule, the important thing is to begin—and let God’s Word guide you every step of the way.

Where to Start When Reading the Bible

By: Selected

Many people want to read the Bible but feel overwhelmed by its length and complexity. With 66 books written across centuries, it can be hard to know where to begin. Should you start at the very beginning in Genesis, jump into the Gospels, or choose something more devotional? The truth is, where you start often depends on your goals—whether it's growing your faith, learning history, finding daily encouragement, or diving deeper into study.

Why Choosing the Right Starting Point Matters

The Bible is not a single book but a collection of narratives, laws, poetry, wisdom, letters, and prophecy. Picking a book at random can sometimes feel confusing or even discouraging, especially for beginners. For example, opening directly to Revelation without context might raise more questions than answers. Having a clear and purposeful starting point brings consistency, focus, and a sense of direction to your reading. It allows you to build understanding step by step while keeping the big picture in view.

Different Approaches for Different Readers

For New Believers

If you are new to Christianity, the best place to start is often the Gospels. Books like John or Mark give a clear picture of Jesus' life, ministry, and purpose. These accounts allow you to encounter Christ directly and understand the foundation of the Christian faith.

For History Seekers

If your interest lies in understanding the Bible's storyline, Genesis and Exodus are excellent places to begin. They introduce God's creation, humanity's fall, His covenant with Israel, and the beginnings of His redemptive plan.

For Daily Inspiration

If you want encouragement and wisdom for everyday life, the Psalms and Proverbs are practical and uplifting. The Psalms offer prayers and songs for every emotion, while Proverbs provides short lessons in wisdom that can apply to many day to day circumstances and decisions.

For Structured Learning

Some readers prefer guidance through a plan. A structured approach ensures balance and progress without feeling overwhelmed. Midtown church of Christ offers several helpful options:

Read the whole Bible in a year

Monthly reading plans organized by bible study topics

These resources allow you to follow a manageable path and keep your reading consistent.

Building a Lifelong Habit of Reading the Bible

Ultimately, there isn't one "perfect" place to begin. The important step is simply to start. Whether you begin with the Gospels, the wisdom of Proverbs, or a structured plan, consistency will help you grow in understanding and faith. Start small—maybe just a chapter a day—and allow God's Word to shape your thoughts, actions, and outlook. If you've been unsure of where to begin, let this be your encouragement to open the pages of the Bible today. Download a reading plan, explore new bible study topics, or join us for Bible study on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. As you commit to the journey and continue to read the Bible, you'll find that the path leads to lasting wisdom, hope, and spiritual growth.



Upcoming Events

Today! Monthly potluck after morning worship - with a 12:45 afternoon service to follow. Please bring a dish/dessert and visitor.

Sat. Jan. 17, 2026: Midtown will host Ladies Day with speaker Erin Tanner. Registration begins at 8:30am.

February 20-22, 2026: Midtown's Youth Winter Retreat at Peach Valley AIM Camp for 6th –12th grade. Flyers and schedule are in the foyer in the hallway. It is also available on our website under Files.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Summer Siegel who will be having surgery in Houston this week.

Members

Jeff Cannady and Veronica Serenil.

Read the Bible in a year with us!

The January Bible Reading Schedule can be found on the table in the foyer, on our Lightpost app under files, or on our website under files.

Volunteers Needed

The Sign up sheets for ways to serve for 2026 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.
Please sign up.

Service Roster

Week of January 4, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading Billy York
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer Doug Jobes
Closing Prayer Willie Fossati

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread Jake Jacobs
Cup Barry Lehtinen
Offering Ron White
Assist Blake Jacobs
Assist Luke FitzSimmons
Assist Jack Jobes

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer Kevin Sheeran
Closing Prayer Desmon Flonny

Lord's Supper & Offering Clifton Rutherford/
Bryce Dolan

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons
Devotional Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion for Jan Ferman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Elana Carroll Jan. 7
Gerry Whitacre Jan. 7

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido—Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....	9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....	5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....	7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of December 28, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....	58
A.M. Worship.....	85
P.M. Worship.....	53
Wednesday Worship.....	57

Financial information is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies



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midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.