



Will we be reading through the Bible from front to back?

For a couple months we've been talking about "Reading Through the Bible in 15 Minutes A Day." We will use the Today's Light Bible for our readings which begin Monday, January 5. The question above grew out of a desire to find out how the program will work.

The short answer is "No." Here's an explanation of why:

Because these 66 books of the Bible are bound together into one volume, we get the idea that it is like a typical book that we would read from front to back. But since the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books, it's more like a library than a book. For example, the Bible contains books we might find in a history section of a library (e.g. Genesis), books we'd find in a poetry section (e.g. Psalms), books that give practical wisdom for daily life (Proverbs), books that detail the life of Jesus (the Gospels), books that are actually letters (all the New Testament books by the Apostle Paul), and books of prophecy - messages from God (e.g. Isaiah).

As with books in a library, many of these can be "pulled from the shelves" and read independent of the other books. Some of the history books are helpful to read consecutively (like Genesis and Exodus). Others may be best read at different time. For example Chronicles comes right after Kings in the Bible, but if you read the Chronicles right after Kings you may come away with the thought, "Didn't I just read that?" Chronicles does recount many of the same events recorded in Kings, but it does so from a different perspective and with a different purpose.

For that reason we won't read all of the books in order. We will start at the beginning with Genesis and Exodus, and we will end up with the book of Revelation (which does describe the "last chapter" in the book of God's story. In between we will move around the "library," for example during the seasons of Christmas and Easter it just seems natural to read about Jesus' life, so we'll read the Gospel books during those seasons.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net