

Read a CHAPTER a Day

SIX-WEEK STUDY PLAN

Fall 2026 | September 8 – October 19

Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Cultivating a daily habit of reading scripture invites us deeper into a relationship with God, or as John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, called it: a “means of grace.” The goal of reading scripture is not to complete the reading or acquire knowledge, but to be open to how God may be speaking through these inspired words to shape and form you as you grow as a disciple.

While there is no one right way to read scripture, this initiative will introduce several practices of engaging scripture that will involve your heart, mind, and even body with your daily reading. At times, reading scripture seems to be an intellectual endeavor. Learning to love God with our minds is a good thing (Matthew 22:37 and Luke 10:27). And there are other ways to “read” scripture to cultivate new ways of encountering God’s Word.

In the Read a Chapter a Day initiative, we are sharing “**5 Suggestions for Surveying Scripture**” as an invitation to experiment with different approaches to engage the sacred text and connect with God:

Simmer—Create a quiet place internally, to “simmer” in awareness of the Holy Spirit. Join in a common prayer listed in the weekly email or pray any prayer of centering, opening your heart and mind to reading God’s Word.

Speak—Before people had personal bibles, Scripture was shared aloud, either through oral tradition or in gathered worship. It is a privilege and a joy to have personal access to scripture, and consider engaging a different part of your brain by reading it aloud or listening to it from a Bible app.

Study—Slow down and make observations about what you see in the text. Note any themes, recurrences, or surprising turns and what you may already know about this author, this book of the bible, or even the context from the previous chapter. Ask questions that arise from what you see in the scripture or what you know from your experience. Get curious about the text, especially as it relates to your own life.

Scribe—Write a word, phrase, or verse that has been a focus of your study today. Consider “doodling” it as a way of meditating on the text or writing out the passage to reflect more deeply on the actual words of the text.

Savor—After you’ve read the passage, take a moment to reflect over all your pondering. What might God be saying to you for the day/week/season ahead? Write a word or phrase that you want to “savor,” continue to process or enjoy. It could be a challenge, a call to action, an encouragement, or something you want to study more. Savor your time of reading scripture by acknowledging the Spirit’s invitations to you.

Whether reading scripture is a new practice for you or a treasured one, we encourage you to explore new insights and encounters with God through this approach. Begin with the first and last S (*Simmer and Savor*) and try the other three (*Speak, Study, Scribe*) throughout the six-week initiative.

Other Ways to Engage with Read a Chapter a Day

- Sign up for our weekly emails to receive a reminder every Sunday about upcoming scripture texts, a common prayer, and resources for further study by visiting our website:
<https://www.UMCdiscipleship.org/articles/read-a-chapter-a-day>
- Join a community to share reflections, questions, and insights. Receive a weekly small-group agenda on Fridays for your own group, or join a Zoom meeting on Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m., CDT. Sign up on our website to join!
- Reflect daily with others through our Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/umcreadachapteraday>

Website



Facebook



Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Read a
CHAPTER
a Day

WEEK 1: September 8–12

Weekly Meeting Anchor: Galatians 5

✓	Date	Reading	Focus Verse (NRSVUE)	Verse Text
☐	Sept. 8	Galatians 1	Galatians 1:10	<i>“Am I now seeking human approval or God’s approval? Or am I trying to please people?”</i>
☐	Sept. 9	Galatians 2	Galatians 2:20	<i>“And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me...”</i>
☐	Sept. 10	Galatians 3	Galatians 3:28	<i>“There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”</i>
☐	Sept. 11	Galatians 4	Galatians 4:6	<i>“And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”</i>
☐	Sept. 12	Galatians 5	Galatians 5:22-23	<i>“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”</i>
☐	Weekly Group Meeting		Discussion Focus: Galatians 5 – Freedom and Life in the Spirit	

Notes

[illegible]

Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Read a
CHAPTER
a Day

Weekly Meeting Anchor: Ephesians 2

✓	Date	Reading	Focus Verse (NRSVUE)	Verse Text
☐	Sept. 13	Galatians 6	Galatians 6:9	<i>“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”</i>
☐	Sept. 14	Ephesians 1	Ephesians 1:3	<i>“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing...”</i>
☐	Sept. 15	Ephesians 2	Ephesians 2:8–9	<i>“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”</i>
☐	Sept. 16	Ephesians 3	Ephesians 3:20	<i>“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask...”</i>
☐	Sept. 17	Ephesians 4	Ephesians 4:32	<i>“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”</i>
☐	Sept. 18	Ephesians 5	Ephesians 5:15–16	<i>“Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time...”</i>
☐	Sept. 19	Ephesians 6	Ephesians 6:11	<i>“Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”</i>
☐	Weekly Group Meeting		Discussion Focus: Ephesians 2 – Saved by Grace and Unity	

Notes

[illegible]

Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

WEEK 3: September 20–26

✓	Date	Reading	Focus Verse (NRSVUE)	Verse Text
☐	Sept. 20	Philippians 1	Philippians 1:21	<i>“For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.”</i>
☐	Sept. 21	Philippians 2	Philippians 2:3	<i>“Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.”</i>
☐	Sept. 22	Philippians 3	Philippians 3:14	<i>“I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”</i>
☐	Sept. 23	Philippians 4	Philippians 4:6–7	<i>“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”</i>
☐	Sept. 24	Colossians 1	Colossians 1:17	<i>“He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”</i>
☐	Sept. 25	Colossians 2	Colossians 2:6	<i>“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him.”</i>
☐	Sept. 26	Colossians 3	Colossians 3:12	<i>“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility...”</i>
☐	Weekly Group Meeting		Discussion Focus: Philippians 4 – Rejoicing, Peace, and Contentment in Christ	

Notes

[illegible]

SIX-WEEK STUDY PLAN

Fall 2026 | September 8–October 19

Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon



WEEK 4: September 27–October 3

Weekly Meeting Anchor: I Thessalonians 4

✓	Date	Reading	Focus Verse (NRSVUE)	Verse Text
☐	Sept. 27	Colossians 4	Colossians 4:6	<i>“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer...”</i>
☐	Sept. 28	I Thessalonians 1	I Thessalonians 1:3	<i>“remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope...”</i>
☐	Sept. 29	I Thessalonians 2	I Thessalonians 2:4	<i>“so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.”</i>
☐	Sept. 30	I Thessalonians 3	I Thessalonians 3:12	<i>“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all...”</i>
☐	Oct. 1	I Thessalonians 4	I Thessalonians 4:9–10	<i>“Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another...”</i>
☐	Oct. 2	I Thessalonians 5	I Thessalonians 5:16–18	<i>“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God...”</i>
☐	Oct. 3	II Thessalonians 1	II Thessalonians 1:11	<i>“To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call...”</i>
☐	Weekly Group Meeting		Discussion Focus: 1 Thessalonians 4 – Abounding Love and Holiness	

Notes

Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Weekly Meeting Anchor: I Timothy 4

Notes

[illegible]

SIX-WEEK STUDY PLAN

Fall 2026 | September 8–October 19

Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Read a

CHAPTER

a Day

WEEK 6: October 11–October 19

Weekly Meeting Anchor: Philemon 1

✓	Date	Reading	Focus Verse (NRSVUE)	Verse Text
☐	Oct. 11	I Timothy 6	I Timothy 6:6	<i>“Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment...”</i>
☐	Oct. 12	II Timothy 1	II Timothy 1:7	<i>“for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”</i>
☐	Oct. 13	II Timothy 2	II Timothy 2:15	<i>“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed...”</i>
☐	Oct. 14	II Timothy 3	II Timothy 3:16–17	<i>“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training...”</i>
☐	Oct. 15	II Timothy 4	II Timothy 4:7	<i>“I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”</i>
☐	Oct. 16	Titus 1	Titus 1:15	<i>“To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure...”</i>
☐	Oct. 17	Titus 2	Titus 2:11–12	<i>“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety...”</i>
☐	Oct. 18	Titus 3	Titus 3:5	<i>“he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy...”</i>
☐	Oct. 19	Philemon 1	Philemon 1:6	<i>“I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ.”</i>
☐	Weekly Group Meeting		Discussion Focus: Philemon 1 – Reconciliation and Forgiveness	

Notes