

Read a CHAPTER a Day

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



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WEEK 1: September 8–12

✓	Chapter	Date
☐	Galatians 1	September 8
☐	Galatians 2	September 9
☐	Galatians 3	September 10
☐	Galatians 4	September 11
☐	Galatians 5	September 12

WEEK 4: September 27–October 3

✓	Chapter	Date
☐	Colossians 4	September 27
☐	I Thessalonians 1	September 28
☐	I Thessalonians 2	September 29
☐	I Thessalonians 3	September 30
☐	I Thessalonians 4	October 1
☐	I Thessalonians 5	October 2
☐	II Thessalonians 1	October 3

WEEK 2: September 13–19

✓	Chapter	Date
☐	Galatians 6	September 13
☐	Ephesians 1	September 14
☐	Ephesians 2	September 15
☐	Ephesians 3	September 16
☐	Ephesians 4	September 17
☐	Ephesians 5	September 18
☐	Ephesians 6	September 19

WEEK 5: October 4–10

✓	Chapter	Date
☐	II Thessalonians 2	October 4
☐	II Thessalonians 3	October 5
☐	I Timothy 1	October 6
☐	I Timothy 2	October 7
☐	I Timothy 3	October 8
☐	I Timothy 4	October 9
☐	I Timothy 5	October 10

WEEK 3: September 20–26

✓	Chapter	Date
☐	Philippians 1	September 20
☐	Philippians 2	September 21
☐	Philippians 3	September 22
☐	Philippians 4	September 23
☐	Colossians 1	September 24
☐	Colossians 2	September 25
☐	Colossians 3	September 26

WEEK 6: October 11–19

✓	Chapter	Date
☐	I Timothy 6	October 11
☐	II Timothy 1	October 12
☐	II Timothy 2	October 13
☐	II Timothy 3	October 14
☐	II Timothy 4	October 15
☐	Titus 1	October 16
☐	Titus 2	October 17
☐	Titus 3	October 18
☐	Philemon 1	October 19

Questions? Please contact:

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