

# Gospels and Acts Reading Plan

Immerse Yourself in the Life of Jesus and the Early Church  
Multiple Readings Through Each Gospel

## Part 1: Sequential Gospel Study (Months 1-4, Approximately Days 1-120)

### Month 1: Matthew - The Kingdom of Heaven (28 chapters, ~4 weeks)

| Week | Reading       | Checkpoint               | Notes                               |
|------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1    | Matthew 1-7   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Birth, genealogy, Sermon on Mount   |
| 2    | Matthew 8-14  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Miracles & multiplication of loaves |
| 3    | Matthew 15-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transfiguration, disciples training |
| 4    | Matthew 22-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trials, crucifixion, resurrection   |

**Key Themes:** Kingdom, righteousness, fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus as King

#### Reflection Questions:

- How does Matthew present Jesus as King?
- What kingdom principles does Jesus teach?

### Month 2: Mark - The Servant King (16 chapters, ~4 weeks)

| Week | Reading    | Checkpoint               | Notes                                   |
|------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1    | Mark 1-4   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Calling disciples, parables             |
| 2    | Mark 5-8   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Healing, feeding, Peter's confession    |
| 3    | Mark 9-12  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transfiguration, warnings, judgment     |
| 4    | Mark 13-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Olivet Discourse, passion, resurrection |

**Key Themes:** Action, urgency, servant hood, suffering, redemption

#### Reflection Questions:

- How does Mark emphasize Jesus as a servant?
- What does Mark reveal about discipleship?

### Month 3: Luke - The Son of Man (24 chapters, ~6 weeks)

| Week | Reading    | Checkpoint               | Notes                                   |
|------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1    | Luke 1-4   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Births, genealogy, temptation           |
| 2    | Luke 5-8   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Calling disciples, miracles, parables   |
| 3    | Luke 9-12  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Feeding, transfiguration, warnings      |
| 4    | Luke 13-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Parables of grace, prodigal son         |
| 5    | Luke 17-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> | End times, tax collector, blind beggar  |
| 6    | Luke 21-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Olivet Discourse, passion, resurrection |

**Key Themes:** Compassion, universality, history, Jesus as Son of Man

#### Reflection Questions:

- How does Luke emphasize Jesus' compassion?
- Who are the outsiders Luke highlights?

### Month 4: John - The Word Made Flesh (21 chapters, ~5 weeks)

| Week | Reading    | Checkpoint               | Notes                                          |
|------|------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | John 1-4   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prologue, encounters, woman at well            |
| 2    | John 5-8   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Discourse on work, bread, light                |
| 3    | John 9-12  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Blind man, resurrection of Lazarus             |
| 4    | John 13-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Last supper, farewell discourse, prayer        |
| 5    | John 18-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trials, crucifixion, resurrection, restoration |

**Key Themes:** Divinity, belief, eternal life, relationship with Father

#### Reflection Questions:

- What does John emphasize about Jesus' divinity?
- How does John's Gospel differ from the others?

### Part 2: Acts - The Early Church (28 chapters, Weeks 5-8, Days ~121-140)

| Week | Reading    | Checkpoint               | Focus                                      |
|------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Acts 1-7   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ascension, Pentecost, Peter's boldness     |
| 2    | Acts 8-14  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stephen's death, Philip, Saul's conversion |
| 3    | Acts 15-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jerusalem Council, Paul's journeys         |
| 4    | Acts 22-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul's trials, journey to Rome             |

**Key Themes:** Holy Spirit power, witness, growth, persecution, inclusion of Gentiles

**Reflection Questions:**

- How does the Holy Spirit work throughout Acts?
- What characterized the early church?

**Part 3: Synoptic Gospel Comparison (Weeks 9-12, Days ~141-168)**

Compare parallel accounts across Matthew, Mark, and Luke

**Week 1: Birth & Early Ministry**

| Event             | Matthew | Mark    | Luke        | Comparison                                   |
|-------------------|---------|---------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Birth of Jesus    | 1:18-25 | -       | 1:26-2:40   | Matthew: genealogy; Luke: detailed narrative |
| Baptism           | 3:1-17  | 1:1-11  | 3:1-22      | Mark: most concise; Luke: includes genealogy |
| Temptation        | 4:1-11  | 1:12-13 | 4:1-13      | Matthew & Luke: detailed; Mark: brief        |
| First Miracle     | -       | -       | 2:1-11 (Jn) | John records Cana miracle                    |
| Calling Disciples | 4:18-22 | 1:16-20 | 5:1-11      | Luke's account includes miraculous catch     |

**Discussion:** How do accounts differ? What does each Gospel emphasize?

**Week 2: Sermon on Mount / Plain**

| Passage             | Matthew | Mark | Luke    | Notes                                 |
|---------------------|---------|------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Beatitudes          | 5:3-12  | -    | 6:20-23 | Luke's version is shorter; woes added |
| Golden Rule         | 7:12    | -    | 6:31    | Same teaching, different context      |
| Build on Rock       | 7:24-27 | -    | 6:47-49 | Identical teaching                    |
| Centurion's Servant | 8:5-13  | -    | 7:1-10  | Luke includes more dialogue           |

**Discussion:** Why are parallel accounts so similar yet different? What does this reveal?

**Week 3: Miracles - Comparing Accounts**

| Miracle                     | Matthew  | Mark    | Luke    | Unique Elements                |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Demon-Possessed Man         | 8:28-34  | 5:1-20  | 8:26-39 | Mark most detailed             |
| Woman with Issue            | 9:20-22  | 5:24-34 | 8:43-48 | Mark: emotional detail         |
| Raising of Jairus' Daughter | 9:18-26  | 5:21-43 | 8:40-56 | Mark: "Talitha koum" (Aramaic) |
| Feeding 5000                | 14:13-21 | 6:30-44 | 9:10-17 | Details vary by Gospel         |
| Calming the Storm           | 8:23-27  | 4:35-41 | 8:22-25 | Matthew: supernatural emphasis |

**Discussion:** What variations appear? How do they complement each other?

## **Week 4: Passion Narrative - Death & Resurrection**

| Event        | Matthew  | Mark     | Luke     | John     | Distinctives           |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| Last Supper  | 26:20-30 | 14:22-26 | 22:14-23 | 13:1-17  | John: foot washing     |
| Gethsemane   | 26:36-46 | 14:32-42 | 22:39-46 | -        | Luke: agony detail     |
| Trial        | 26:57-68 | 14:53-65 | 22:63-71 | 18:12-27 | John: Pilate dialogue  |
| Crucifixion  | 27:32-56 | 15:21-41 | 23:26-49 | 19:16-37 | John: "It is finished" |
| Resurrection | 28:1-10  | 16:1-8   | 24:1-12  | 20:1-18  | Appearances differ     |

**Discussion:** How do resurrection accounts differ? What is common to all?

## **Part 4: Thematic Gospel Study (Weeks 13-16, Days ~169-196)**

### **Week 1: The Miracles of Jesus**

Read selected miracle accounts from all four Gospels:

#### **Healing Miracles:**

- Leper: Matthew 8:2-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16
- Centurion's servant: Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10
- Peter's mother-in-law: Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39
- Woman with bleeding: Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:24-34, Luke 8:43-48

#### **Resurrection Miracles:**

- Jairus' daughter: Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56
- Widow's son: Luke 7:11-17
- Lazarus: John 11:1-44

#### **Nature Miracles:**

- Calming storm: Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25
- Feeding 5000: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14
- Walking on water: Matthew 14:24-33, Mark 6:47-52, John 6:16-21

**Reflection:** What do Jesus' miracles reveal about His identity and power?

## **Week 2: The Parables of Jesus**

Study parables across all Gospels:

### **Parables of Growth:**

- Sower: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15
- Mustard seed: Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19
- Leaven: Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21

### **Parables of Grace & Mercy:**

- Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
- Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32
- Pharisee & Tax Collector: Luke 18:9-14

### **Parables of Judgment:**

- Sheep & Goats: Matthew 25:31-46
- Talents: Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27
- Ten Virgins: Matthew 25:1-13

**Reflection:** What is Jesus teaching through His parables? What messages recur?

## **Week 3: The Teachings of Jesus**

Compare Jesus' major teachings:

### **The Sermon on the Mount:**

- Matthew 5-7 (full version)
- Luke 6:20-49 (Sermon on Plain)
- Beatitudes, Lord's Prayer, Golden Rule

### **The Farewell Discourse:**

- John 13-17 (Last Supper teaching)
- Commandment to love (John 13:34-35)
- Jesus as the Vine (John 15:1-11)
- Intercessory Prayer (John 17)

### **Eschatological Discourse:**

- Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21
- Signs of the end, watchfulness, judgment

**Reflection:** What core teachings appear across all Gospels? What is unique to each?

## **Week 4: The Resurrection Accounts**

Study each Gospel's resurrection account in detail:

### **Matthew 28:**

- Women at tomb, angel's message
- Jesus meets the women
- Great Commission

### **Mark 16:**

- Young man in white
- Women's fear and silence
- Appearance to disciples (longer ending)

### **Luke 24:**

- Two angels, disciples' confusion
- Road to Emmaus encounter
- Appearance in Jerusalem
- Ascension preview

### **John 20-21:**

- Mary Magdalene's encounter
- Thomas' doubt and faith
- Breakfast with disciples
- Peter's restoration

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Why are resurrection details different in each Gospel?
- What is consistent across all accounts?
- What does each Gospel emphasize about Jesus' resurrection?

## **Suggested Study Method**

### **For each reading:**

1. Read the passage without notes
2. Read it again with study Bible notes
3. Write down key observations
4. Identify unique details in each account
5. Note what this reveals about Jesus

6. Apply the lesson to your life

## Daily Checkpoint Tracking

### Weeks 1-4: Matthew & Synoptic Intro

- ☐ Week 1 complete
- ☐ Week 2 complete
- ☐ Week 3 complete
- ☐ Week 4 complete

### Weeks 5-8: Mark & Luke

- ☐ Week 5 complete
- ☐ Week 6 complete
- ☐ Week 7 complete
- ☐ Week 8 complete

### Weeks 9-12: John & Acts

- ☐ Week 9 complete
- ☐ Week 10 complete
- ☐ Week 11 complete
- ☐ Week 12 complete

### Weeks 13-16: Synoptic Comparison & Themes

- ☐ Week 13 complete
- ☐ Week 14 complete
- ☐ Week 15 complete
- ☐ Week 16 complete

## Reflection Journal Template

For each Gospel and section, record:

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Week: \_\_\_\_\_

### Key Themes Identified:

- 
-

### Unique Characteristics:

- 
- 

### Jesus' Character Revealed:

- 
- 

### Personal Application:

- 
- 

### Questions for Further Study:

- 
- 

### Tips for Deep Study

- **Use multiple translations:** Compare NASB, ESV, NKJV, NLT
- **Cross-reference:** Use chain references in study Bible
- **Word studies:** Look up key terms in concordance
- **Historical context:** Note customs, geography, political situation
- **Artistic reading:** Imagine yourself in the scenes
- **Group discussion:** Share insights with others
- **Memorization:** Commit key verses to memory
- **Meditation:** Sit with difficult passages

**Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**End Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

[TheWordofGod365.com](http://TheWordofGod365.com) - Your Daily Bible Reading Companion