

Sept 12 / Sunday

Back to School: In the Library

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17



13 / Mon – Dive in | Read John 14:26 / Luke 11:9-13

Most of us have spent some time in the school library. Your teacher taught specific subjects in the classroom but the library is where you went to learn more in-depth info. This could be an analogy for your spiritual life. You can listen to sermons in person or online but you will learn the most by diving into scripture yourself. Don't imagine you have to do this learning alone. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would teach you. But what if you don't know where to start? Just ask.

14 / Tue – Do not miss the 'backstory' | Read Luke 24:44-47 / Romans 15:4

Some Christians rarely read the Old Testament because Jesus' story is in the New Testament and that seems more relevant. But ask yourself this: to what were the New Testament writers referring when they mentioned 'the scriptures'? How would it change your perspective if you mentally added the words 'the *Old Testament* scriptures' in Rom. 15:4? Why do you think it is important to read the Old and the New? What connections between the two have you personally discovered?

15 / Wed – The big picture | Read John 20:31

Every writer has a target audience and a purpose in mind when they write. God's audience? You and every other person ever born on earth. The Old Testament's purpose is to inform you about the way God intended things to be, how it all fell apart, and His promise to make things right again. The New Testament reveals Jesus as the answer, invites you to participate and shows you a new way to live while you wait for God's final restoration. Have you thanked Him lately for this amazing book?

16 / Thu – A book of books | Read Psalms 19:7-11

When you go to the library, you probably look for the section that has information you are most interested in. That's the way most people start reading the Bible. You may be drawn to the Psalms because they are brief and relatable. Someone else may jump into Proverbs because its practical wisdom can be immediately applied. Still others want a better understanding of Jesus' teachings and they begin with the book of John or Luke. Where did you start and why?

17 / Fri – Exhibit A | Read Matthew 4:1-11

Reading and remembering scripture can mean the difference between resisting temptation and succumbing to it. As you read this conversation between Satan and Jesus, notice how Jesus responded to the first temptation by quoting Deut. 8:3. In the second, Satan justified himself by quoting Psalm 91:11-12 but Jesus countered with Deut. 6:16. Then Jesus answered Satan's third attempt with Deut. 6:13. What conclusions do you draw from this encounter?

18 / Sat – Does it change you? | Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Reading a section of scripture every day has a cumulative effect. But it requires more than just a quick read. Reflect on what you've read. Ask yourself questions. First, what does it say? Next, what does it mean? Then, how does this apply to me? Other questions can include...what does this teach me about *God* and what does it teach me about *myself*? Maybe write a one-sentence summary you can remember. Application is what helps you grow and equips you to live God's way!