



# Take the Bible Sunday Challenge

Reading the bible helps us to grow as Christians. It helps us learn more about God and to be formed more like Jesus Christ. The Bible encourages us, challenges us, helps us, puzzles us and sometimes might confound/anger us.

## What do I need to get started?

- Get a bible, or if you've got one, get it off the shelf!
- Read it in a translation that makes sense to you.
- Try to increase your 'reading habit'. No less than once a week outside of Sunday.

## OK. So where do I start?

- Read the Gospel of Mark (16 chapters) over a month
- Read the Gospel of Luke (24 Chapters) over a month
- Read the Book of Acts (28 Chapters)
- Read 10 verses of a psalm every day. Start with Psalm 1 and kick off from there.

## Is there anything else out there that could help me?

- Use Pray As You Go ([pray-as-you-go.org](http://pray-as-you-go.org))
- Take the notice sheet home and re-read the bible readings during the week, and learn ONE verse.
- When you read the Bible – go to a quiet place physically and in your mind and ask God to speak to you through the Holy Scriptures.
- Find a daily devotional that works for you, in a Christian bookshop or online.

**But most of all, get into the habit! Read the Bible regularly and by yourself.**

The Bible was written over a 1600 year period by approximately 40 authors, all of them almost certainly were men. The time of the writing was from 1500 BC to AD 100.

The Bible is a library of 66 books – which form the Old and the New Testament.

### Chapters and Verses

Each of the books, except 5, are divided into chapters and verses. The 5 which aren't divided by chapters are Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. These are short books which only have verse divisions.

Chapters were introduced to the Bible in 1238 by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro. Verse divisions were not added until 1551 by Robertus Stephanus.

### The Longest and Shortest of the Bible

The longest chapter of the Bible is Psalm 119 with 176 verses. The shortest chapter is Psalm 117 with only 2 verses.

Incidentally, the middle chapter of the Bible is also Psalm 117.

The longest book of the Bible is Psalms with 150 chapters, or psalms. It contains 43,743 words. The shortest book is 3 John with only 1 chapter and 299 words.

The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9 with 90 words. The shortest verse is John 11:35 with only 2 words, "Jesus wept."

The Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages.

### How many times is the word love in the Bible?

The word "love" appears 310 times in the King James Bible, 348 times in the New American Standard Bible, 551 times in the New International Version and 538 times in the New Revised Standard Version.

### What is the most commonly used word in the Bible?

The most common word in the Bible is "Lord", which is used with even greater frequency than "God".

The words "Don't Be Afraid" appear 365 times in the Bible the same amount of days in the year.

The first three words in the Bible are 'in the beginning'. The very last word used in the bible is "Amen".