

# The Four Gospels in a Year

The Gospels vary in length. Their number of chapters and verses is as follows:

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
28 chapters 1069 verses	16 chapters 674 verses	24 chapters 1150 verses	21 chapters 879 verses
avg. 38 vv/ch	avg. 42 vv/ch	avg. 48 vv/ch	avg. 42 vv/ch

There are a total of 89 chapters (3772 verses) in all of the Gospels.

## Document Contents

*(Click on page number to jump to section)*

<b>The Reading Plan</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Devotional Practices</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Lectio Divina</i>	5
<i>Scripture Memory</i>	7

# The Reading Plan

One could read 10.33 verses every day to complete the Gospels in a year. This plan, however, makes some adjustments.

First, as Luke has nearly twice as many verses as Mark, an even distribution of the Gospel chapters across the year would have one spend significantly more days in Luke and Matthew and fewer in John and Mark. Although it is a somewhat arbitrary arrangement, this plan instead gives each Gospel its own quarter of the year (three months) and divides the readings accordingly. This means there are more verses per day in Q1 (Matthew) and Q3 (Luke), with Q2 (Mark) having the fewest verses per day.

Second, readings are distributed across five days a week: Monday (M), Tuesday (Tu), Wednesday (W), Thursday (Th), and Friday (F). Weekends are left available for review, other reading, catch-up, or a break. Friday always ends with the last verse of a chapter.

Third, this reading plan suggests incorporation of two devotional practices: *lectio divina* and Scripture memory. More details, with suggested passages, are further below.

## Jan-Mar: Matthew

### Wk 1: Jan 1-5, Matt 1-4

M: [Matt 1:1-17](#)  
Tu: [Matt 1:18-2:12](#)  
W: [Matt 2:13-3:10](#)  
Th: [Matt 3:11-4:7](#)  
F: [Matt 4:8-25](#)

### Wk 2: Jan 8-12, Matt 5-6

M: [Matt 5:1-16](#)  
Tu: [Matt 5:17-32](#)  
W: [Matt 5:18-48](#)  
Th: [Matt 6:1-17](#)  
F: [Matt 6:18-34](#)

### Wk 3: Jan 15-19, Matt 7-8

M: [Matt 7:1-14](#)

Tu: [Matt 7:15-29](#)  
W: [Matt 8:1-13](#)  
Th: [Matt 8:14-22](#)  
F: [Matt 8:23-34](#)

### Wk 4: Jan 22-26, Matt 9-10

M: [Matt 9:1-17](#)  
Tu: [Matt 9:18-34](#)  
W: [Matt 9:35-10:15](#)  
Th: [Matt 10:16-33](#)  
F: [Matt 10:34-42](#)

### Wk 5: Jan 29-Feb 2, Matt 11-12

M: [Matt 11:1-15](#)  
Tu: [Matt 11:16-30](#)  
W: [Matt 12:1-14](#)  
Th: [Matt 12:15-32](#)  
F: [Matt 12:32-50](#)

### Wk 6: Feb 5-9, Matt 13-14

M: [Matt 13:1-17](#)  
Tu: [Matt 13:18-35](#)  
W: [Matt 13:36-58](#)  
Th: [Matt 14:1-21](#)  
F: [Matt 14:22-36](#)

### Wk 7: Feb 12-16, Matt 15-17

M: [Matt 15:1-20](#)  
Tu: [Matt 15:21-39](#)  
W: [Matt 16:1-20](#)  
Th: [Matt 16:21-17:8](#)  
F: [Matt 17:8-27](#)

### Wk 8: Feb 19-23, Matt 18-19

M: [Matt 18:1-14](#)  
Tu: [Matt 18:15-22](#)  
W: [Matt 18:23-35](#)  
Th: [Matt 19:1-15](#)  
F: [Matt 19:16-30](#)

### Wk 9: Feb 26-Mar 2, Matt 20-21

M: [Matt 20:1-16](#)  
Tu: [Matt 20:17-34](#)  
W: [Matt 21:1-13](#)  
Th: [Matt 21:14-32](#)  
F: [Matt 21:33-46](#)

### Wk 10: Mar 5-9, Matt 22-23

M: [Matt 22:1-14](#)  
Tu: [Matt 22:15-33](#)  
W: [Matt 22:34-46](#)  
Th: [Matt 23:1-15](#)  
F: [Matt 23:16-39](#)

### Wk 11: Mar 12-16, Matt 24-25

M: [Matt 24:1-14](#)  
Tu: [Matt 24:15-31](#)  
W: [Matt 24:32-51](#)  
Th: [Matt 25:1-30](#)  
F: [Matt 25:31-46](#)

**Wk 12: Mar 19-23,  
Matt 26**

M: Matt 26:1-16  
Tu: Matt 26:17-35  
W: Matt 26:36-46  
Th: Matt 26:47-56  
F: Matt 26:57-75

**Wk 13: Mar 26-30,  
Matt 27-28**

M: Matt 27:1-14  
Tu: Matt 27:15-31  
W: Matt 27:32-54  
Th: Matt 27:55-28:10  
F: Matt 28:11-20

## **Apr-June: Mark**

**Wk 14: Apr 2-6,  
Mark 1**

M: Mark 1:1-8  
Tu: Mark 1:9-15  
W: Mark 1:16-28  
Th: Mark 1:29-38  
F: Mark 1:39-45

**Wk 15: Apr 9-13,  
Mark 2**

M: Mark 2:1-5  
Tu: Mark 2:6-12  
W: Mark 2:13-17  
Th: Mark 2:18-22  
F: Mark 2:23-28

**Wk 16: Apr 16-20,  
Mark 3-4**

M: Mark 3:1-12  
Tu: Mark 3:13-27  
W: Mark 3:28-4:9  
Th: Mark 4:10-25  
F: Mark 4:26-41

**Wk 17: Apr 23-27,  
Mark 5**

M: Mark 5:1-13  
Tu: Mark 5:14-20  
W: Mark 5:21-24  
Th: Mark 5:25-34  
F: Mark 5:35-43

**Wk 18: Apr 30-  
May 4, Mark 6**

M: Mark 6:1-6  
Tu: Mark 6:7-16  
W: Mark 6:17-29  
Th: Mark 6:30-44  
F: Mark 6:45-56

**Wk 19: May 7-11,  
Mark 7**

M: Mark 7:1-8  
Tu: Mark 7:9-13  
W: Mark 7:14-23  
Th: Mark 7:24-30  
F: Mark 7:31-37

**Wk 20: May  
14-18, Mark 8-9**

M: Mark 8:1-13  
Tu: Mark 8:14-30  
W: Mark 8:31-9:8  
Th: Mark 9:9-27  
F: Mark 9:28-50

**Wk 21: May  
21-25, Mark 10**

M: Mark 10:1-9  
Tu: Mark 10:10-22  
W: Mark 10:23-31  
Th: Mark 10:32-40  
F: Mark 10:41-52

**Wk 22: May 28-  
Jun 1, Mark 11**

M: Mark 11:1-10  
Tu: Mark 11:11-14  
W: Mark 11:15-19  
Th: Mark 11:20-25  
F: Mark 11:27-33

**Wk 23: Jun 4-8,  
Mark 12**

M: Mark 12:1-11  
Tu: Mark 12:12-17  
W: Mark 12:18-27  
Th: Mark 12:28-34  
F: Mark 12:35-44

**Wk 24: Jun 11-15,  
Mark 13**

M: Mark 13:1-8  
Tu: Mark 13:9-13  
W: Mark 13:14-20  
Th: Mark 13:21-27  
F: Mark 13:28-37

**Wk 25: Jun 18-22,  
Mark 14**

M: Mark 14:1-11  
Tu: Mark 14:12-21  
W: Mark 14:22-42  
Th: Mark 14:43-52  
F: Mark 14:53-72

**Wk 26: Jun 25-29,  
Mark 15-16**

M: Mark 15:1-14  
Tu: Mark 15:15-21  
W: Mark 15:22-32  
Th: Mark 15:33-47  
F: Mark 16:1-20

## **July- September: Luke**

**Wk 27: Jul 2-6,  
Luke 1**

M: Luke 1:1-20  
Tu: Luke 1:21-38  
W: Luke 1:39-56  
Th: Luke 1:57-66  
F: Luke 1:67-80

**Wk 28: Jul 9-13,  
Luke 2-3**

M: Luke 2:1-14  
Tu: Luke 2:15-35  
W: Luke 2:36-52  
Th: Luke 3:1-20  
F: Luke 3:21-38

**Wk 29: Jul 16-20,  
Luke 4-5**

M: Luke 4:1-13  
Tu: Luke 4:14-30  
W: Luke 4:31-5:11  
Th: Luke 5:12-26  
F: Luke 5:27-39

**Wk 30: Jul 23-27,  
Luke 6-7**

M: Luke 6:1-19  
Tu: Luke 6:20-40  
W: Luke 6:41-7:10  
Th: Luke 7:11-30  
F: Luke 7:31-50

**Wk 31: Jul 30-Aug  
3, Luke 8**

M: Luke 8:1-10  
Tu: Luke 8:11-21  
W: Luke 8:22-33  
Th: Luke 8:34-48  
F: Luke 8:49-56

**Wk 32: Aug 6-10,  
Luke 9**

M: Luke 9:1-11

Tu: Luke 9:12-22  
W: Luke 9:23-36  
Th: Luke 9:37-45  
F: Luke 9:46-62

**Wk 33: Aug 13-17,  
Luke 10-11**

M: Luke 10:1-20  
Tu: Luke 10:21-37  
W: Luke 10:38-11:4  
Th: Luke 11:5-32  
F: Luke 11:33-54

**Wk 34: Aug 20-24,  
Luke 12-13**

M: Luke 12:1-21  
Tu: Luke 12:22-40  
W: Luke 12:41-59  
Th: Luke 13:1-21  
F: Luke 13:22-35

**Wk 35: Aug 27-31,  
Luke 14-16**

M: Luke 14:1-15  
Tu: Luke 14:16-35  
W: Luke 15:1-31  
Th: Luke 16:1-17  
F: Luke 16:18-31

**Wk 36: Sep 3-7,  
Luke 17-18**

M: Luke 17:1-19  
Tu: Luke 17:20-37  
W: Luke 18:1-17  
Th: Luke 18:18-30  
F: Luke 18:31-43

**Wk 37: Sep 10-14,  
Luke 19-20**

M: Luke 19:1-10  
Tu: Luke 19:11-28  
W: Luke 19:29-47  
Th: Luke 20:1-26  
F: Luke 20:27-47

**Wk 38: Sep 17-21,  
Luke 21-22**

M: Luke 21:1-24  
Tu: Luke 21:25-38  
W: Luke 22:1-27  
Th: Luke 22:28-51  
F: Luke 22:52-71

**Wk 39: Sep 24-28,  
Luke 23-24**

M: Luke 23:1-23  
Tu: Luke 23:24-49  
W: Luke 23:50-24:12  
Th: Luke 24:13-35  
F: Luke 24:36-53

**October-  
December:  
John**

**Wk 40: Oct 1-5,  
John 1**

M: John 1:1-13  
Tu: John 1:14-23  
W: John 1:24-34  
Th: John 1:35-42  
F: John 1:43-51

**Wk 41: Oct 8-12,  
John 2-3**

M: John 2:1-12  
Tu: John 2:13-25  
W: John 3:1-15  
Th: John 3:16-24  
F: John 3:25-36

**Wk 42: Oct 15-19,  
John 4-5**

M: John 4:1-26  
Tu: John 4:27-42  
W: John 4:43-54

Th: John 5:1-24  
F: John 5:25-47

**Wk 43: Oct 22-26,  
John 6**

M: John 6:1-15  
Tu: John 6:16-29  
W: John 6:30-51  
Th: John 6:52-59  
F: John 6:60-71

**Wk 44: Oct 29-  
Nov 2, John 7**

M: John 7:1-9  
Tu: John 7:10-24  
W: John 7:25-36  
Th: John 7:37-44  
F: John 7:45-53

**Wk 45: Nov 5-9,  
John 8**

M: John 8:1-11  
Tu: John 8:12-20  
W: John 8:21-36  
Th: John 8:37-47  
F: John 8:48-59

**Wk 46: Nov 12-16,  
John 9**

M: John 9:1-7  
Tu: John 9:8-17  
W: John 9:18-23  
Th: John 9:24-34  
F: John 9:35-41

**Wk 47: Nov 19-23,  
John 10-11**

M: John 10:1-21  
Tu: John 10:22-39  
W: John 10:40-11:16  
Th: John 11:17-37  
F: John 11:38-57

**Wk 48: Nov 26-30,  
John 12**

M: John 12:1-11  
Tu: John 12:12-19  
W: John 12:20-26  
Th: John 12:27-36  
F: John 12:37-50

**Wk 49: Dec 3-7,  
John 13**

M: John 13:1-11  
Tu: John 13:12-17  
W: John 13:18-20  
Th: John 13:21-30  
F: John 13:31-38

**Wk 50: Dec 10-14,  
John 14-15**

M: John 14:1-11  
Tu: John 14:12-24  
W: John 14:25-15:8  
Th: John 15:9-17  
F: John 15:18-15:27

**Wk 51: Dec 17-21,  
John 16-18**

M: John 16:1-18  
Tu: John 16:19-17:5  
W: John 17:6-25  
Th: John 18:1-18  
F: John 18:19-40

**Wk 52: Dec 24-28,  
John 19-21**

M: John 19:1-22  
Tu: John 19:23-42  
W: John 20:1-18  
Th: John 20:19-31  
F: John 21:1-25

# Devotional Practices

There are many ways to interact with the Bible devotionally. Two practices are especially beneficial when interacting with the biblical text: *lectio divina* and verse memorization.

## *Lectio Divina*

For a short primer on the ancient spiritual practice, see [here](#) and [here](#). The key is for this prayerful way of interacting with Scripture to be less formulaic and more an approach that opens up a space for communion with God.

Each week below includes a single suggested passage for *lectio divina*, whether one chooses to engage with that text once, or repeatedly throughout the week. Certainly there are other passages within a week's reading that one could select! Shorter passages or groups of verses are a good idea for the practice.

### **Jan-Mar: Matthew**

**Wk 1: Jan 1-5,  
Matt 1-4**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 4:12-17](#)

**Wk 2: Jan 8-12,  
Matt 5-6**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 5:3-10](#)

**Wk 3: Jan 15-19,  
Matt 7-8**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 7:7-11](#)

**Wk 4: Jan 22-26,  
Matt 9-10**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 9:10-13](#)

**Wk 5: Jan 29-Feb  
2, Matt 11-12**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 12:15-21](#)

**Wk 6: Feb 5-9,  
Matt 13-14**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 13:44-50](#)

**Wk 7: Feb 12-16,  
Matt 15-17**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 16:13-16](#)

**Wk 8: Feb 19-23,  
Matt 18-19**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 18:1-5](#)

**Wk 9: Feb 26-  
Mar 2, Matt  
20-21**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 20:17-19](#)

**Wk 10: Mar 5-9,  
Matt 22-23**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 22:29-33](#)

**Wk 11: Mar  
12-16, Matt 24-25**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 25:37-40](#)

**Wk 12: Mar  
19-23, Matt 26**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 26:36-39](#)

**Wk 13: Mar  
26-30, Matt 27-28**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Matt 28:16-20](#)

### **Apr-June: Mark**

**Wk 14: Apr 2-6,  
Mark 1**

*Lectio Divina:*  
[Mark 1:1-3](#)

**Wk 15: Apr 9-13,  
Mark 2**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 2:23-28

**Wk 16: Apr  
16-20, Mark 3-4**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 3:31-35

**Wk 17: Apr  
23-27, Mark 5**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 5:30-34

**Wk 18: Apr 30-  
May 4, Mark 6**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 6:7-13

**Wk 19: May 7-11,  
Mark 7**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 7:17-23

**Wk 20: May  
14-18, Mark 8-9**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 9:33-37

**Wk 21: May  
21-25, Mark 10**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 10:13-16

**Wk 22: May 28-  
Jun 1, Mark 11**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 11:7-10

**Wk 23: Jun 4-8,  
Mark 12**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 12:41-44

**Wk 24: Jun  
11-15, Mark 13**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 13:9-13

**Wk 25: Jun  
18-22, Mark 14**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 14:22-25

**Wk 26: Jun  
25-29, Mark  
15-16**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Mark 16:1-8

**July-  
September:  
Luke**

**Wk 27: Jul 2-6,  
Luke 1**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 1:46-55

**Wk 28: Jul 9-13,  
Luke 2-3**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 2:8-14

**Wk 29: Jul 16-20,  
Luke 4-5**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 4:16-21

**Wk 30: Jul 23-27,  
Luke 6-7**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 6:27-31

**Wk 31: Jul 30-  
Aug 3, Luke 8**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 8:16-18

**Wk 32: Aug 6-10,  
Luke 9**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 9:23-27

**Wk 33: Aug  
13-17, Luke  
10-11**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 10:25-28

**Wk 34: Aug  
20-24, Luke  
12-13**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 12:22-26

**Wk 35: Aug  
27-31, Luke  
14-16**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 16:10-13

**Wk 36: Sep 3-7,  
Luke 17-18**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 17:20-21

**Wk 37: Sep  
10-14, Luke  
19-20**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 19:8-10

**Wk 38: Sep  
17-21, Luke  
21-22**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 22:24-27

**Wk 39: Sep  
24-28, Luke  
23-24**

*Lectio Divina:*  
Luke 24:4-9

**October-  
December:  
John**

**Wk 40: Oct 1-5,  
John 1**

*Lectio Divina:*  
John 1:1-5

**Wk 41: Oct 8-12,  
John 2-3**

*Lectio Divina:*  
John 3:14-17

<b>Wk 42: Oct 15-19, John 4-5</b>	<b>Wk 45: Nov 5-9, John 8</b>	<b>Wk 48: Nov 26-30, John 12</b>	<b>Wk 51: Dec 17-21, John 16-18</b>
<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 4:21-24	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 8:34-38	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 12:27-33	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 17:20-24
<b>Wk 43: Oct 22-26, John 6</b>	<b>Wk 46: Nov 12-16, John 9</b>	<b>Wk 49: Dec 3-7, John 13</b>	<b>Wk 52: Dec 24-28, John 19-21</b>
<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 6:35-40	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 9:35-41	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 13:12-15	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 20:25-31
<b>Wk 44: Oct 29- Nov 2, John 7</b>	<b>Wk 47: Nov 19-23, John 10-11</b>	<b>Wk 50: Dec 10-14, John 14-15</b>	
<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 7:37-39	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 10:11-18	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> John 14:1-7	

## ***Scripture Memory***

Memorizing solidifies Scripture and its message in a way that even a slow, reflective reading does not. Consider committing at least one verse to memory each week--perhaps drawing from the suggested *lectio divina* passage that week, or from any other verse that stands out.

Here are **16 ways** to memorize Bible verses. (These methods work for other texts, too.)

1. Read the verse(s) over and over until it solidifies in your memory.
2. Color code the text with highlights to enhance visual associations.
3. Create a visual flow of a verse or passage where you indent subordinate clauses on successive lines. This wouldn't have to be fancy or even grammatically precise; just a way to break up the text and see the relationships spread out.
4. Start by reading one word of a given verse, then two words, then three words, etc. So memorizing [John 3:16](#) would go like this: "For. For God. For God so. For God so loved. For God so loved the. For God so loved the world." And so on.

- 5.** Write it out! Writing slowly helps you to turn the words and phrases over more carefully, helping you to remember them better.
- 6.** Make flash cards. Write the verse reference on one side and the verse on the other. Or the verse reference and part of the verse on side A, with the remainder of the verse on side B.
- 7.** Listen to the text on audio, so you have another sense engaged.
- 8.** For that matter, record yourself reading the text, not straight through, but with repetitions on each verse. So you could record yourself reading [John 3:1-17](#) out loud, but reading verse 1 five times, then verse 2 five times, and so on.
- 9.** Find someone to whom you can attempt to quote the passage, asking them to stop you when you don't get it verbatim.
- 10.** Copy the single page you're working on, put it in a weatherproof, sealable bag, and tape it up somewhere in your house where you'll see it (bedroom, bathroom, kitchen).
- 11.** Write a song or really silly rap that helps you commit the verse to memory.
- 12.** Read the verse out loud, but backwards.
- 13.** Do the same as above, but writing it out.
- 14.** Give yourself some signposts—if you're memorizing a whole chapter, start by memorizing verse 1, then verse 6, then verse 10, etc. Then come back and fill in the rest.
- 15.** Brainstorm your own list of ways to memorize, keeping it handy for when you need to change it up.
- 16.** Consider memorizing in a group setting or congregational context. (See [here](#).)

*Note: All material in this guide is written and copyrighted by Abram Kielsmeier-Jones, 2017. Permission is hereby granted to make and use up to 50 copies of any aspect of this material. Please credit Abram Kielsmeier-Jones as the author. This material is intended for personal use, group use, classroom use, or for any other educational ministry of the Church, but may not be sold under any circumstances. Unauthorized use is prohibited.*