

Well, it's 2016 and that, for Christians, means among other things a new year to engage with God and his word. Here is an excerpt from an article I enjoyed listing 5 reasons to read your bible in 2016:

“1. It helps you learn the overarching story of Scripture.

After reading through the Bible a few times, the redemptive-historical storyline will become second nature. For example, when reading the Old Testament it'll help you greatly to know that the kingdom of Israel divided around 930 B.C., after which the northern and southern kingdoms had different kings and began spinning off into serious idolatry. With some meaty study helps (such as the *ESV Study Bible* or *Reformation Study Bible*), you will soon learn where everything in the Old Testament belongs on the timeline of ancient history.

Pretty soon, you will see the Bible is all about Christ and will become keenly aware why it's important to read Leviticus alongside Hebrews.

2. It will improve your ability to interpret and exegete Scripture.

This is a natural consequence of the first reason. The better you know the Bible's storyline, the more aware you'll be of the “near” and “far” contexts of each passage, and the less prone you'll be to engage in eisegesis.

With the whole of redemptive history as your framework, you'll see why it isn't compelling to preach slaying the giants in your life or five smooth stones of ministry success from David's encounter with Goliath. It will rescue you from teaching and preaching bare, soul-calcifying moralism.

3. It will keep you habitually in the Bible.

This discipline will force you to spend many hours in God's Word, and that is always fruitful. If you commit to reading through Scripture in 2016, there will be precious few days, if any, when you won't be ingesting Scripture. You will increasingly delight in God's Word—all of it.

4. It will ensure you are engaging (and being engaged by) Scripture at least as frequently as you're engaging other books.

[...] I have to resist buying every piece of excellent literature published by leading evangelical publishers.

But I should not be reading three non-inspired books—no matter how instructive and edifying—for every book of the Bible I read.

5. It will force you to navigate those tricky, less traveled roads of Scripture.

Reading the entire Bible annually will force you to work through books and passages that might not normally attract your gaze: Numbers, Song of Solomon, Amos, Philemon, and yes, for those of us who suffer from acute allergies to all things end-times, chapters 6 to 22 of Revelation. The Spirit inspired every word of Scripture for our edification (*Rom. 15:4*). Let us read them.”

(Taken from Jeff Robinson on the TGC.org blog.)

God's word is a gift. But many do not view it that way, and such would explain the immense

poverty of biblical literacy in our day. I hope such will not be true of our family here at Brownsburg. There are many ways to engage in Bible reading – so seek which way would be best for you personally.

Every year I get in the habit of exploring new bible reading approaches. I want to encourage one in particular for this year: **The Bible Project's Read Scripture** series complete with overview videos on YouTube. They've set it up in a completely engaging way along with videos they've designed for us who are more visually stimulated.

Here's the link for their reading plan:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9nftruthi4wdut3/read%20scripture%20-%20single%20page.pdf?dl=0>

And here's the link to their YouTube page providing all overview videos designed to be watched before each major section of reading. I think you'll find them extremely creative, insightful and concise: <https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/videos>

And if you would like more info, check out this summary on the plan:
<http://thebibleproject.tumblr.com/readscripture>