

# The Gospel House: A Plan for Daily Bible Study and Prayer

by Dale Bruner

I have found the following plan helpful as one practical way to “make a home with Jesus,” the main theme of John 15. (A person does not have to follow this or any program in order to be a good Christian! My own wife, the best Christian I know, does not use any plan. Perhaps only certain “driven” types like myself, pitifully, need a kind of program or regimen in order to get anything done.)

*Lectio Divina.* Read one chapter of the New Testament each day in the calendar year (preferably in the morning or when alone). A chapter’s reading takes only a few minutes. Read the chapter quietly and meditatively, seeking to hear in it God’s Word for the day. Underline what is most striking. Make marginal comments. Feel free to ask questions of the text. Try to find the verse, sentence, phrase, or word that most speaks to you. After reading the chapter, if not during (or perhaps in a rereading after catching the text’s drift in a first reading), you can pray back in conversation what you think the Lord is asking readers to pray, say, think, change, or do. Reading like this can make prayer and Bible study more an honest conversation than a mere routine. Such two-way Bible study and prayer can be, spiritually, what real conversation between two persons is socially: an honest exchange of souls. You might want to pray the Lord’s Prayer at the end of some meetings, since this prayer is the main way Jesus taught his disciples to talk with the Father. The day’s reading and the Lord’s Prayer will often be found to be mutually interpreting.

Bruner, F. Dale, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012), Appendix to John 15.



## THE NEW TESTAMENT BY MONTHS

Calibrate the day of the month with the chapter of the book: e.g., on January 1 read and pray Matthew 1. On free days, e.g., January 29 through 31, you can read and pray whatever chapter(s) you may have missed that month or use your imagination!

### JANUARY

Matthew 1–28

### FEBRUARY

Mark 1–16

### MARCH

Luke 1–24

### APRIL

John 1–21

### MAY

Acts 1–28

### JUNE

Romans 1–16

### JULY

1 Corinthians 1–16, 2 Corinthians 1–13

### AUGUST

Galatians 1–6; Ephesians 1–6; Philippians 1–4; Colossians 1–4

### SEPTEMBER

1 Thessalonians 1–5; 2 Thessalonians 1–3; 1 Timothy 1–6; 2 Timothy 1–4; Titus 1–3; Philemon

### OCTOBER

Hebrews 1–13; James 1–5

### NOVEMBER

1 Peter 1–5; 2 Peter 1–3; 1 John 1–5; 2 John; 3 John; Jude

### DECEMBER

Revelation 1–22

