Of all the reasons people mention for not reading the Bible, simple discouragement ranks highest. The Bible's length alone is imposing. More like a self-contained library than a book, it includes 66 different books, by several dozen authors. Little wonder people get confused and discouraged. This Reading Plan helps break the Bible into more manageable portions.

Introduction to the Bible
This is a place to begin reading the Bible. These two-week reading courses take you quickly into passages every Christian should know. Of the 1189 Bible chapters, why begin with these? First, they are frequently quoted or referred to elsewhere. Second, they are relatively easy to read and understand.

1. Two Weeks on the Life and Teachings of Jesus
☐ Day 10. John 17: Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

2. Two Weeks on the Life and Teachings of Paul
☐ Day 8. Romans 7: Struggle with sin.
☐ Day 10. 1 Corinthians 13: Paul's description of love.
☐ Day 11. 1 Corinthians 15: Thoughts on the afterlife.

3. Two Weeks on the Old Testament
☐ Day 4. Exodus 3: Moses' encounter with God.
☐ Day 6. 1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath.
☐ Day 7. 2 Samuel 11: David and Bathsheba.
☐ Day 8. 2 Samuel 12: Nathan's rebuke of the king.
☐ Day 9. 1 Kings 18: Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
☐ Day 12. Isaiah 40: Words of comfort from God.
1. Two Weeks on Becoming a Christian
   - Day 1. Genesis 3: The first sin creates a need.
   - Day 2. Isaiah 52: Salvation prophesied.
   - Day 3. Isaiah 53: The role of the suffering servant.
   - Day 5. John 3: Jesus explains “born again.”
   - Day 7. Acts 8: Conversions spread outside the Jewish community.
   - Day 13. 1 Peter 1: Future rewards of salvation.
   - Day 14. 2 Peter 1: Making your salvation sure.

2. Two Weeks on Prayers of the Bible
   - Day 2. Exodus 15: Moses' song to the Lord.
   - Day 3. Exodus 33: Moses meets with God.
   - Day 4. 2 Samuel 7: David's response to God's promises.
   - Day 5. 1 Kings 8: Solomon's dedication of the temple.
   - Day 6. 2 Chronicles 20: Jehoshaphat prays for victory.
   - Day 7. Ezra 9: Ezra's prayer for the people's sins.
   - Day 13. John 17: Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

3. Two Weeks on the Holy Spirit
   - Day 2. 1 Samuel 10: King Saul's experience.
   - Day 4. John 14: Jesus promises the Spirit.
   - Day 8. Romans 8: Christians' victory in the Spirit.
   - Day 9. 1 Corinthians 2: Wisdom from the Spirit.
   - Day 10. 1 Corinthians 12: Gifts of the Spirit.
   - Day 11. 1 Corinthians 14: Gifts of tongues and prophecy.

4. Two Weeks on Women of the Bible
   - Day 1. Genesis 2: Eve, the first woman.
   - Day 2. Genesis 18: Sarah laughs at God's promise.
   - Day 4. Genesis 27: Rebekah, the manipulative mother.
   - Day 5. Judges 4: Deborah's leadership frees her people.
   - Day 7. 1 Samuel 1: Hannah prays for a son.
   - Day 8. 1 Kings 17: A poor widow and the prophet Elijah.
   - Day 9. 1 Kings 21: Jezebel, an emblem of wickedness.
   - Day 10. Esther 2: Esther is chosen as queen.
Day 11. Esther 4: Esther’s courage at the risk of death.

5. Two Weeks on Men of the Old Testament
Day 1. Judges 6: God calls Gideon to rescue his people.
Day 2. Judges 7: Gideon conquers his fears—and his enemies.
Day 3. 1 Samuel 3: God calls young Samuel.
Day 4. 1 Kings 3: Solomon is given wisdom.
Day 5. 1 Kings 19: Elijah runs for his life.
Day 6. 2 Kings 5: Elisha heals a powerful foreign general.
Day 7. Isaiah 6: God calls the prophet Isaiah.
Day 8. 2 Kings 18: King Hezekiah under military siege.
Day 9. 2 Kings 19: Isaiah speaks God’s word to King Hezekiah.
Day 10. 2 Chronicles 34: Josiah sets his nation back on course.
Day 12. Jeremiah 38: Jeremiah, in prison, refuses to change his message.
Day 14. Daniel 5: Daniel’s word to participants in a royal orgy.

6. Two Weeks on Social Justice
Day 1. Exodus 3: God hears the cries of the slaves.
Day 4. 1 Kings 21: Elijah speaks to a land-grabbing, murderous king.
Day 10. Amos 6: Warning to the complacent.
Day 14. James 2: How to treat the rich and the poor.

7. Two Weeks on God and Nature
Day 1. Genesis 1: God creates the earth.
Day 2. Genesis 2: God creates human beings.
Day 4. Genesis 7: God preserves the species.
Day 7. Job 40: God’s mastery of nature.
Day 11. Isaiah 40: The ruler of all creation.
Day 12. Romans 8: The “groanings” of our present state.

Further Two-Week Courses for Personal Study
Two weeks on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:
Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33.
Two weeks on Moses and the exodus:
Exodus 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 14, 16, 19, 32; Numbers 14; Deuteronomy 1, 2, 4, 31.
Two weeks on David:
1 Samuel 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24; 2 Samuel 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18.