

A CATHOLIC READING PLAN FOR BEGINNERS

This guide is a 12-month Catholic Bible reading plan designed for beginners, busy parents, and anyone who's ever asked, "Where do I even start?"

"Come and see."
— John 1:39

Family Faith Tip:

You don't need to carve out perfect quiet time—just let your kids see you reading, praying, or reflecting. Your example plants the seeds.

Who It's For

- You want to read the bible but feel overwhelmed
- You long for deeper faith
- You're raising kids and want Scripture woven in
- You're returning to your faith after a time away

How to Use It

- Each month includes 4 weekly readings
- Set aside one day a week—or spread it across the week
- Read it with a notebook, a cup of coffee, or a kid on your lap
- Don't stress about catching up— just keep going

What You'll Gain

- A deeper understanding of who Jesus is
- A clearer view of Scripture's big story
- A habit of prayerful reading that grows over time
- A way to live your Catholic faith—right in your own home.

Ready to Begin?

- Each month walks through key sections of the Bible
- Starting with the Gospels and moving through history, prophecy, wisdom, and letters
- Start with Month 1: Meet Jesus— and let Him shape your year

1

MEET JESUS

Begin with Christ. Learn His story. Listen to His voice. Let His Word transform your home.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” —
Luke 19:10

Family Faith Tip:

Pick one story from Luke each week to read aloud in a children’s Bible—then act it out, draw it, or pray about it together.

One

- Luke 1–4
- Psalm 1
- Proverbs 1

Two

- Luke 5–8
- Psalm 2
- Proverbs 2

Three

- Luke 9–12
- Psalm 3
- Proverbs 3

Four

- Luke 14–20
- Psalm 4
- Proverbs 4

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: What surprised you about Jesus’ early life?
- Week 2: Which parable or miracle spoke to your heart most this week?
- Week 3: What does it mean to truly follow Christ in your daily life?
- Week 4: Where do you see God inviting you to greater trust or surrender?

2

THE EARLY CHURCH & SACRAMENTAL LIFE

After meeting Jesus in the Gospels, we now watch His mission continue through the Apostles in Acts. The early Church shows us what it means to live in unity, break bread together, and be bold witnesses for Christ—even in suffering.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” – Acts 2:42

Family Faith Tip:

End one meal each day this month with a short prayer together, just as the early Church “broke bread” and prayed in their homes.

One

- Luke 21-24
- Psalm 5
- Proverbs 5

Two

- Acts 1-5
- Psalm 6
- Proverbs 6

Three

- Acts 6-10
- Psalm 7
- Proverbs 7

Four

- Acts 11-18
- Psalm 8
- Proverbs 8

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: How does knowing the end of Luke’s Gospel shape your view of Christ’s mission?
- Week 2: The early Church grew through prayer and community. How can I live this in my own home?
- Week 3: Where do I need to trust the Holy Spirit’s leading more fully?
- Week 4: Am I willing to face discomfort for the sake of the Gospel?
- Week 5: What moment from Acts inspired me most this month, and why?



CREATION & COVENANT

Before there was a Church, there was God's covenant with His people. In Genesis, we see His power in creation, His mercy after the fall, and His steadfast promises to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This month reminds us that the God who shaped the stars also shapes our lives.

"I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you." —
Genesis 17:7

Family Faith Tip:

Go outside one evening, look at the stars, and talk about how God keeps His promises—just as He did with Abraham.

One

- Genesis 1-6
- Psalm 9
- Proverbs 9

Two

- Genesis 7-12
- Psalm 10
- Proverbs 10

Three

- Genesis 13-18
- Psalm 11
- Proverbs 11

Four

- Genesis 19-28
- Psalm 12
- Proverbs 12

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: How do I see God's design and order in creation—and in my own life?
- Week 2: What's one way I can practice trust like Abraham this week?
- Week 3: Where do I need to be reminded that God is faithful to His promises?
- Week 4: How does God's patience with imperfect people encourage me as a parent?
- Week 5: What story from Genesis spoke to me most, and why?

4

WAITING IN HOPE —
FROM JOSEPH TO JESUS

Joseph's life in Genesis is a story of betrayal, waiting, and redemption—one that points forward to Jesus. In Advent, we learn to wait in hope, trusting that God's plan is unfolding even when we can't yet see it. This month blends Joseph's story with Isaiah's prophecies and Matthew's account of Jesus' birth and early ministry.

“The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” —
Matthew 1:23

Family Faith Tip:

Light a candle in the evening and pray for something you are waiting for, remembering that God's timing is always perfect.

One

- Genesis 37–41
- Psalm 13
- Proverbs 13

Two

- Genesis 42–46
- Psalm 14
- Proverbs 14

Three

- Genesis 47–50
- Isaiah 40–43
- Psalm 15
- Proverbs 15

Four

- Isaiah 44–48
- Matthew 1–7
- Psalm 16
- Proverbs 16

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: Where might God be working behind the scenes in my life right now?
- Week 2: How does Joseph's forgiveness challenge me to let go of resentment?
- Week 3: Which prophecy from Isaiah gives me the most hope?
- Week 4: What would it look like to truly prepare my heart for Christ's coming?
- Week 5: Which story or verse this month most shaped my faith?



KINGS, DAVID & WISDOM

This month introduces us to King David—a man after God’s own heart—and reminds us that leadership, repentance, and worship all matter in the life of faith. Through David’s story in 1–2 Samuel and the Psalms he wrote, we’re drawn into a deeper understanding of our own flaws and the mercy of God who still chooses us.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.” –
Psalm 51:10

Family Faith Tip:

Choose one Psalm this month and pray it together as a family once a week—your kids will learn that Scripture is prayer.

One

- Samuel 1–10
- Psalm 17
- Proverbs 17

Two

- Samuel 11–20
- Psalm 18
- Proverbs 18

Three

- Samuel 21–31
- Psalm 19
- Proverbs 19
- Samuel 21–31

Four

- 2 Samuel 1–10
- Psalm 20 & 51
- Proverbs 20

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: What does it mean to be faithful in the small things like David was before he became king?
- Week 2: Where am I tempted to rely on my own strength instead of trusting God’s plan?
- Week 3: What does David’s humility (or failure) teach me about repentance?
- Week 4: How can I lead in my home the way David was called to lead a nation—with heart and humility?
- Week 5: What do I need to lay before God with honesty and trust this month?

6

THE PROPHETS
& THE PROMISE

The prophets weren't fortune tellers—they were truth tellers. They reminded Israel (and us) that obedience matters, justice is sacred, and God's promise of salvation would not fail. This month, we read the bold calls of Isaiah and Micah, alongside Romans, where St. Paul shows how those promises are fulfilled in Christ.

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8

Family Faith Tip:

Draw or color a picture of something you're thankful God has promised, and hang it somewhere your child will see every day.

One

- Isaiah 1-7
- Psalm 21
- Proverbs 21

Two

- Isaiah 8-14
- Psalm 22
- Proverbs 22

Three

- Isaiah 15-22
- Micah 1-4
- Psalm 23
- Proverbs 23

Four

- Micah 5-7
- Romans 1-8
- Psalm 24
- Proverbs 24

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: Where have I become too comfortable with habits that keep me from holiness?
- Week 2: Am I willing to be corrected—or do I resist the truth like Israel did?
- Week 3: What justice or mercy is God calling me to live out more boldly?
- Week 4: How does Romans show the connection between prophecy and Christ?
- Week 5: What promise in Scripture am I still holding onto—and why?



SUFFERING & TRUST

This month takes us into the hardest parts of the human experience: grief, loss, confusion, and waiting. Through Job's lament, Jeremiah's sorrow, and Paul's joy in prison, we're reminded that suffering doesn't mean God is absent. He is near to the brokenhearted—and faithful even in silence.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” – Psalm 34:18

Family Faith Tip:

Pray for someone who is hurting or sick this week, and remind your children that God stays close to us when we feel sad or scared.

One

- Job 1-7
- Psalm 25
- Proverbs 25

Two

- Job 8-14
- Psalm 26
- Proverbs 26

Three

- Job 15-21
- Lamentations 1-2
- Psalm 27
- Proverbs 27

Four

- Lamentations 3-5
- Philippians 1-4
- Psalm 28
- Proverbs 28

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: What is my response when life feels unfair—and where do I turn first?
- Week 2: Can I be honest with God about my emotions, like Job was?
- Week 3: What do Lamentations and Philippians together teach me about how to suffer with faith?
- Week 4: How can I practice choosing joy even in the middle of difficulty?
- Week 5: Looking back, how has God walked with me through hard seasons?

8

RESURRECTION — HE IS RISEN

Christ's resurrection is not just a moment—it's the turning point of history. In the Gospel of John, we encounter the Word made flesh, the Good Shepherd, and the risen Lord who calls us by name. This month reminds us that death does not have the final word, and that new life is always possible in Christ.

"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies,
will live." – John 11:25

Family Faith Tip:

Teach your children to say,
"He is risen! Alleluia!" and
explain what that means—and
why it changes everything.

One

- John 1-5
- Psalm 29
- Proverbs 29

Two

- John 6-10
- Psalm 30
- Proverbs 30

Three

- John 11-16
- Psalm 31
- Proverbs 31

Four

- John 17-21
- Colossians 1-4
- Psalm 32

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: How does John's description of Jesus change the way I see God?
- Week 2: What part of Jesus' teaching feels especially personal right now?
- Week 3: Where do I need Jesus to bring resurrection or renewal in my life?
- Week 4: How does knowing Christ conquered death shape the way I live?
- Week 5: What would it look like for me to live with "resurrection hope" this month?

9

CHURCH LIFE & MORAL LIVING

After the Resurrection, the early Christians had to live out the Gospel in a real world—with conflict, false teachers, and daily decisions. Through the letters of James, Peter, and Paul, this month focuses on practical holiness: speech, humility, service, and leadership rooted in truth.

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” – James 1:22

Family Faith Tip:

Memorize one short Bible verse together this month and repeat it during meals, car rides, or bedtime.

One

- James 1–5
- Psalm 33
- Proverbs 1

Two

- 1 Peter 1–5
- Psalm 34
- Proverbs 2

Three

- 2 Peter 1–3
- 1 Timothy 1–3
- Psalm 35
- Proverbs 3

Four

- 1 Timothy 4–6
- Psalm 36
- Proverbs 4

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: Where do I struggle to live what I believe, and what's one habit I can change?
- Week 2: What does humility look like in my relationships and leadership?
- Week 3: What message from Peter or Paul encourages me to stay rooted in truth?
- Week 4: Am I modeling faith that's firm but gentle for my family?
- Week 5: What virtue is God asking me to grow in right now?

10 HEAVEN & SPIRITUAL BATTLE

We live in a visible world, but there is a deeper battle being fought for our hearts, homes, and souls. Through the prophetic visions of Daniel and the apocalyptic truth of Revelation, this month invites us to stay awake, hold fast, and remember that Christ has already won.

Family Faith Tip:

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” –
Revelation 2:10

Look at pictures of God’s creation—stars, oceans, animals—and tell your child that heaven will be even more beautiful because God will be with us face to face.

One

- Revelation 1–5
- Psalm 37
- Proverbs 5

Two

- Revelation 6–11
- Psalm 38
- Proverbs 6

Three

- Revelation 12–16
- Daniel 1–3
- Psalm 39
- Proverbs 7

Four

- Daniel 4–9
- Revelation 17–22
- Psalm 40
- Proverbs 8

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: Where do I need to renew my focus on eternity?
- Week 2: Am I living more for comfort—or for the crown?
- Week 3: What does spiritual battle look like in my daily life—and how do I fight with faith?
- Week 4: How do the stories of Daniel and the vision of Revelation increase my confidence in God’s power?
- Week 5: What habits or fears do I need to surrender to live more freely in Christ?

11

WISDOM & CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Our faith is not just spiritual—it's practical, familial, and deeply rooted in tradition. This month, we walk through Sirach, Tobit, and Baruch, where themes of parenting, marriage, virtue, and community come to life. Paired with Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we're reminded that holiness begins at home.

Family Faith Tip:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." – Joshua 24:15

Share one saint story with your children each week this month and talk about how they chose to live for God—even in the ordinary moments.

One

- Sirach 1-8
- Psalm 41
- Proverbs 9

Two

- Sirach 9-16
- Psalm 42
- Proverbs 10

Three

- Tobit 1-14
- Baruch 1-3
- Psalm 43
- Proverbs 11

Four

- Baruch 4-6
- Ephesians 1-6
- Psalm 44
- Proverbs 12

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: How can I grow in true wisdom—not just knowledge?
- Week 2: Which virtue from Sirach or Proverbs challenges me the most right now?
- Week 3: What does Tobit teach me about faithfulness in family life?
- Week 4: How does Ephesians shape the way I parent, serve, or lead?
- Week 5: What specific way can I reclaim or recommit to Catholic family living?

12 ADVENT & PROPHECY — COME, LORD JESUS

All of Scripture points to the coming of Christ—and this month, we slow down to anticipate Him. Through Matthew's Gospel and the soaring promises of Isaiah, we remember that God does not forget His people. Advent isn't just about preparing for Christmas; it's about preparing our hearts for Christ, every day.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”
— Isaiah 9:2

Family Faith Tip:

Set up a Nativity scene at the beginning of the month and slowly add one figure each week, saving Baby Jesus for Christmas morning.

One

- Isaiah 40-44
- Matthew 1-3
- Psalm 45
- Proverbs 13

Two

- Isaiah 45-49
- Matthew 4-6
- Psalm 46
- Proverbs 14

Three

- Isaiah 50-54
- Matthew 7-9
- Psalm 47
- Proverbs 15

Four

- Isaiah 55-60
- Matthew 10-12
- Psalm 48
- Proverbs 16

Weekly Reflection:

- Week 1: What areas of my life feel like “wilderness” right now—and how is God preparing something new there?
- Week 2: How am I preparing my heart and home for Christ—not just for Christmas, but forever?
- Week 3: What part of Isaiah's prophecy gives me the most hope?
- Week 4: What distractions can I clear away to make room for real peace and presence this season?
- Week 5: What have I learned about God, myself, and Scripture through this year-long journey?