



January 6, 2025

Do You Have a Minute in 2025?

Last year I offered a unique way to study the whole Bible in just 60 seconds a day. The method (which I still highly recommend) is described below along with other Bible reading options. Perhaps you used this method and completed it. If so, I commend you for your dedication! Perhaps you started but didn't finish. No worries. That's what happened to me. 2024 was the most stressful year of my life and that's saying a lot! Our daughter went through a complicated, protracted, painful divorce (is there any other kind?) after 26 years of marriage. She and her four children suffered greatly through it. Larry and I spent countless hours listening and trying to support them. It was worrisome, time-consuming, and exhausting. On top of that there were and are family health concerns. But then that's life, isn't it?

Thankfully, it is a new year filled with new opportunities. All of us have 1,440 minutes a day available to us. If we sleep the recommended 8 hours, that leaves 960 minutes to use as we choose. Hopefully, as Christians, we start each week in worship and then spend time each day exercising our faith by praying, reading the Bible, and putting what we believe into action. As we do, our faith – which is a gift from God – grows and matures. It's a lifelong journey.

I love the 'Bible in a Minute' video episodes and find them relevant and enjoyable. I've started watching them again and hope to complete it or at least make more progress in 2025. Watch Bible in a Minute here: <https://www.trcnyc.org/BibleInAMinute/> (free with no ads) However, perhaps a different approach will suit you better. There are many other methods available to help you read and study the Bible. Here are a few suggestions:

1) ***The Daily Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary*** – a free resource without ads that automatically links you the day's texts and allows you to choose the version of the Bible from which you want to read: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily-readings/>

2) ***YouVersion Bible App*** with audio options in some translations – a free resource without ads that never sells or uses your private information. You can listen to the whole Bible a chapter at a time in several translations including NIV, NASB, and The Message. Here is the link to the audio Message version: <https://www.bible.com/audio-bible/97/GEN.1.MSG> From the app you can also download the NRSV Updated Edition (2021) free and access it even without an internet connection.

3) **Bible Reading Chart** (Free PDF for personal use) Print it and use it to check off each chapter of the Bible as you read it. Here is the link:

https://visualunit.me/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/bible_reading_chart.png

4) **Logos Study Bible App** (free version) - <https://www.logos.com/free-edition> Choose the version of the Bible you want to read and double-click on a word or passage to access basic Bible study tools like a Bible dictionary to learn more about people and places, Hebrew & Greek word meanings, maps, etc. You will see banner ads for the paid versions, but they will not obscure your use of the free material. Note: while the basic tools are useful, the commentaries are theologically conservative.

Regularly reading the Bible devotionally and/or studying it will not only increase your knowledge of God and God's will for you and our world, but it will inspire and comfort you in surprising ways. Choose a method that interests you and start anew in 2025.

~Written by Rev. Margie Osborn

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