

December 2024



Let us read and reason together – 2



Suppose you want to remember a verse or a passage or its location for future use or to tell somebody in need when you read the Bible. What will you do? We will take note of the book name, chapter, and verse numbers. Isn't it?

The Bible's chapter and verse divisions help us quickly find the passage we want and tell others to read it. For those who need to know God's unconditional love, we would ask them to read John 3:16; to tell about God's faithfulness in our lives, we refer to Lamentations 3:22-23; to encourage others we love to quote 1 Thes.5:16-19; Numbers 23:23 and Psalm 121:7-8 are to tell God's protection for his people; for those who need healing, we refer to Exodus 15:26, Psalm 103:2-5, Psalm 147:3, 1 Peter 2:24, and Matthew 10:8.

Likewise, we can list many verses for all seasons of our lives. God still speaks to us through the Bible. Chapter and Verse numbers in the Bible help us in many ways. This privilege was unavailable to Christians for more than the first ten centuries. You may be surprised that the original biblical manuscripts, written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, did not have divisions for chapters or verses.

Jewish Scholars began to divide the Old Testament into verses from the 9th century. In the early 1200s, Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, developed the chapter system and split the Old and New Testaments into chapters, creating a more manageable structure for readers.

However, the first full Bible to be published with verse and chapter divisions was Robert Estienne's edition of the Latin Vulgate in 1555. The first English Bible to feature both chapter and verse divisions as we know them today was the Geneva Bible, published in 1560. Including chapter and verse divisions in the Bible helped make the text more accessible and easier to study.

Next time, when you tell or read your favourite verse of the Bible, read the text in context (consider the surrounding verses) to understand the meaning of a verse or a passage. A systematic and regular Bible reading helps us understand what God wants to speak to us today. Our GODependence Bible reading challenges enable you to start reading the whole Bible within the period of your choice.

Let us continue to read and reason together....

- Bro. Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore.



Our Vision

To enlighten, enrich, and empower people to become dependent on God.



Our Mission

GODependence seeks to help people become dependent on God by engaging with God's Word and prayer.

Do you know Jesus spoke Aramaic during His life on earth?

Do you know?

Do you know that the Book of Esther is the only book in the Old Testament that doesn't mention God's name?



Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on behalf of the GODependence team. I am delighted to connect with you again through this newsletter. We thank God for those who read our first newsletter and shared their feedback

In the Christian life, the importance of prayer is often emphasised, but the importance of Bible reading does not receive equal emphasis. In the New Testament, we see in 10 references Jesus Christ asking, “Have you not read [in the Scriptures]?” on seven occasions during His conversations. Specifically, in three instances (Matthew 21:16, Matthew 21:42, Mark 2:25), He asks, “Have you never read in the Scriptures?” There are many Christians among us who have never read the whole Holy Bible, even once.

When someone asks us about something we don't know, we often respond with, “We'll know only when it's informed to us,” and move on. However, when the Holy Bible, which contains everything we need for our lives, is available to us we cannot excuse ourselves by saying, “I don't know.” It is essential to read and understand it.

We congratulate and thank everyone who enthusiastically participated in the 'Bible Crossword Puzzle' and 'Let's Play Bible Game' from last month's Newsletter. We invite you to continue engaging in such activities in every newsletter and deepen your knowledge of the Scriptures.

In preparation for International Day of Bible Reading (December 16), we have suggested a few ways by which you can observe the day—individually, as a family, as a group, or as a church. We encourage you to implement these ideas in some way and help others learn about the significance of this International Day of Bible Reading and the importance of Bible reading. Please share your experiences with us.

Our GODependence Newsletter is published monthly in Tamil and English. We pray that as you read it your passion and thirst for the scriptures will increase. Continue to pray for the ministries of GODependence and introduce its services to others. May the name of the Lord be glorified.



**In Christ's service,
Dr. Pethuru Devadason**

PRAISING & PRAYER POINTS



Let's Praise God:

1. Praise God for GODependence's Admins and Volunteers Team for their involvement in the ministry.
2. Praise God for His grace to publish the GODependence First News Letter in November 2024.
3. Praise God for those who completed the Bible Reading successfully in October 2024.
4. Praise God for those who joined the Bible Reading Challenge groups during November 2024.
5. Praise God for the Bible Reading Challenge (BRC) groups, Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) and Children's Bible Reading Challenge (CBRC) groups.



Let's Pray:

1. Pray for the families who joined in the Bible Reading challenge and for each one of their difficulties. Also, pray that they should overcome all the situations to finish their Bible reading.
2. Pray to restart the Bible Meditation Groups from January 2025 and their preparation works.
3. Pray for the efforts to start the new Bible Reading group in Nepali language. To start the Bible Reading Challenge groups, God willing, for need-based languages in the coming new year.
4. Pray for the children who joined the 'Children's Bible Reading Challenge' groups. Pray that they grow continuously in the Lord.
5. Pray for the upcoming program and its preparation towards the International Day of Bible Reading on 16th December 2024.

A call to remember God's faithfulness

- Bro. ARPUTHARAJ Samuel, Bangalore.



**Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)**

When a new year or month begins, many people are enthusiastic, expectant, and joyful about it. Many Christians would like a new blessed beginning with a promise verse that encourages, comforts, and offers hope to them. However, we usually are not excited to talk about our past. We recall our failures, losses, insults, weaknesses, hardships, and sufferings. That will make it hard for us even to think about the past. Based on their experience, some say, "Past is bleak, future is dim." They presume that their future will be uncertain and without hope. We have completed eleven months of 2024. What do you think about it? You may have a flash of memories that remind you of all that occurred this year.

In Lamentations, Living in Exile, God's people lamented their plights, misery, and all their sufferings meted out to them by their enemies. The Book of Lamentations paints a painful image of people's difficulties that tells us of their enemy's brutal killings of their kings, princes, priests, prophets, elders, and innocent people. Moreover, their living condition was pathetic (Lamentations 2:20; 4:10). They lost all their splendors. While they hopelessly lament their sorrows and affliction, suddenly, they remember something that gives them a ray of hope (Lamentations 3:21).

Despite all their painful experiences, they realized they were alive only because of the Lord's great love. They sang, "We, the God's people, are not consumed because of the Lord's great love."

They knew that they were not worthy of receiving God's grace. However, they understood that His love is unending and unending. That made them say, "We are not consumed, for His compassions never fail." God's love and compassion are inseparable. Whether the sun rises in the mornings, God's great love and compassion are new every morning.

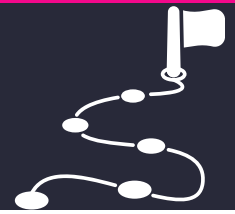
Let us take time to remember how God was with us even when we did not recognize his presence. We may have thought that we suffered alone with no one to help. But, God in His great love was/is with us when we passed through the rivers and walked through the fire (Isaiah 43:1-5). God protects us like the apple of his eye. We often do not realize what would have happened if the Lord had not been with us (Ps. 124). When we contemplate God's faithfulness, we will understand how faithful he was/is to his promises even when we are not faithful to him (2 Timothy 2:13).

Dear friends, I invite you to "Count your blessings" and praise God for His faithfulness in fulfilling his promises. He does everything in His perfect timing. We can trust him always. When we trust God and his promises, we will sing like the psalmist: "How could I be silent when it's time to praise you? Now my heart sings out, bursting with joy— a bliss within me that keeps me singing, "I can never thank you enough!" (Psalm. 30:12). If the Israelites could sing a song about God's faithfulness when they were in exile and had horrible experiences, we can, too, regardless of our present circumstances. We have better promises in Christ Jesus!

- Bro. Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore



“God's love and compassion are inseparable. Whether the sun rises in the mornings, God's great love and compassion are new every morning.”



We have been learning about the 'Journey of GODependence Over the Past Five Years' through a Q&A series titled '5 Years of GODependence.' In the previous newsletter, Dr. Pethuru Devadason, the one who initiated this ministry, discussed topics such as whether this ministry began as an online initiative during the COVID-19 lockdown, how the ministry evolved, how the challenge to read the entire Bible in a month was initiated and implemented, and how the current 6 time-based plans for Bible reading challenge originated. This month, we continue with more questions for him. Let's dive in!

- Bro. Densingh Dennis, Kuwait.

Question: Brother, in the last newsletter, you shared an excellent account of the beginnings of the GODependence ministry. How did you choose the name 'GODependence'?

Answer: The word GODependence does not exist in the English dictionary; it is a term we coined ourselves. My writing journey was deeply nurtured and influenced during college, thanks to the Tharisana Sudar magazine published by the Union of Evangelical Students of India – Tamilnadu. At the time, my primary focus was to write articles to meet the magazine's needs. After my postgraduate studies, in 2007, I started writing independently for the Christian community and began publishing my articles on a blog. I named this blog GODependence, combining the words GOD and Dependence.

I vividly recall a quote I once read in the Our Daily Bread devotional book during my college days: "True freedom is found in dependence on God." Inspired by this, I aimed to use my writings to guide people toward a life of dependence on God. So the blog description given is: "This is the place where people who want to go dependent on God (GODependence) can find resources to do so." Later, as the Bible Reading Challenges began in 2019, I used the same name for these initiatives. Even as friends joined me voluntarily in this endeavour, there was never a debate about the name. In July 2022, when we officially registered the ministry, it was formally named GODependence Trust.

Question: What is the vision and mission of the GODependence ministry?

Answer: We firmly believe that "True freedom is found in dependence on God." With this belief in mind, our vision is "to provide people with the vision, inspiration, and strength to structure their lives in dependence on God." Bible reading and prayer are like the two eyes of a believer. Therefore, our mission is to help people grow in their dependence on God by actively engaging in Scripture and prayer.

Question: What is the vision and mission of the GODependence ministry?

Answer: In the previous issue, we saw how the Bible Reading Challenge initiatives eventually evolved into the GODependence ministry. Those who successfully completed reading the Bible once or for the first time within a set timeframe were so inspired that they began reading it repeatedly with great enthusiasm. This is why the Bible Reading Challenges continue successfully to this day. Michael S. Heiser, a Bible scholar, rightly says that our relationship with the Holy Scriptures doesn't end with just reading the Bible but begins with it. Therefore, our vision is for those who regularly and systematically read the Bible to progress to the next levels, such as Bible Meditation, Bible Memorization, and Bible Study, enabling them to deepen their engagement with the Word of God.

As such, alongside the regular Bible Reading Challenges (BRC), Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) were initiated in August 2020 to facilitate systematic meditation on the Holy Scriptures. These groups continued for a year but were paused for a period. They resumed again in July 2022 and ran for another year. We plan to restart them in January 2025 and conduct them consistently.

The initiatives for memorising Bible verses are still in the preparatory stage within our teams. We are making efforts to implement them in children's Bible Reading groups. Once these initiatives are established, we intend to extend them to the Bible reading challenges for adults. Regarding arrangements for Bible study, while we have a clear plan and operational framework, our approach is to guide people step-by-step through Bible reading, meditation, and memorisation, leading eventually to Bible study activities.

Publishing high-quality spiritual books based on needs is one of our initiatives. So far, we have published five books, and preparation work for releasing six more books is currently underway. Additionally, God has granted us the opportunity to commemorate the First International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) on December 16, 2023. We remain ready and willing to venture in such God-led initiatives.

Question: What measures have you implemented to help participants successfully complete the GODependence Bible Reading Challenges?

Answer: Completing the whole Holy Bible through the Bible Reading Challenge is no easy task, which is why it is called a “challenge.” Success requires commitment, consistent effort, and disciplined reading. To assist the participants, we undertake the following: Every midnight, we send the day’s designated Bible reading portions to the group, accompanied by a “quote image.” These images emphasise the greatness, significance, and importance of reading the Bible but do not include any personal promises, warnings, or advice. This ensures participants are motivated daily to read the portions assigned.

Every Sunday, we open the group to allow participants to share their reading progress. This not only encourages the individuals to share their status but also motivates others in the group. Those who are lagging or facing challenges can share their struggles and receive suggestions and encouragement from the group itself, enabling them to move forward in their Bible reading journey. Additionally, every two weeks, we conduct a review via Google Forms. This allows participants to record their reading status weekly in the group and bi-weekly through the form.

For those who record “50% or less” progress, we reach out to them personally. We discuss options to help them continue with the same challenge or join another challenge to complete their Bible reading. Hence, there’s practically no chance for a participant who logs their progress to remain stagnant in their reading journey. However, the reality is that only those who are reading consistently or genuinely attempting to read tend to record their progress. If everyone actively utilises this feature, it could significantly help most participants complete their Bible reading successfully and enthusiastically.

Question: How do you ensure a participant has successfully completed the Bible Reading Challenge, i.e., fully read the Holy Bible?

Answer: At the end of the Bible Reading Challenge, we send a Final Review link to the group on the last day of the month. Through this link, participants detail their final reading status and experiences. Those who report 90% or more completion are considered to have successfully completed the challenge. Such participants are rewarded with digital or printed certificates of appreciation, along with gifts (for those completing one- or two-month challenges). Generally, participants who report successful completion during the Final Review have consistently updated their progress weekly in the group or bi-weekly through the review forms. However, some participants may not share progress throughout but only report successful completion in the Final Review. When someone reports finishing the entire Holy Bible during the review, we account for their Christian integrity and recognize them as having completed the challenge. However, there is no doubt that weekly or biweekly updates in the group or through the provided links not only encourage others to participate in the group but also motivate us to organise these activities effectively.

(Let's keep asking questions and find out more ...in the next issue.)

BIBLE READING CONTEST - Bible in 1 Month Challenge

From 01 to 31 December 2024

"The Holy Bible can be read anytime, anywhere and anyway ... and so some of us never read it anytime, anywhere and anyway" - Anonymous.

How many times have you read the whole Bible so far? Have you finished reading the Holy Bible at least once in this year 2024?

If not, this is a wonderful opportunity to finish reading the whole Holy Bible once by the end of 2024.

All those who successfully complete the challenge for the first time through GODependence will receive a Prize & certificate. Others will receive a Printed and E - Certificate on successful completion.

Are you interested to join in the contest? Then click the following link to join the group

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FnBaTrZcltvBQgIcWpBv1B>

No Registration Fee... Hurry up! Entry will be permitted till 05 December 2024 only.

Thank you.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FnBaTrZcltvBQgIcWpBv1B>

- Team GODependence

**** Kindly share this information with your family members, friends, and Church believers.

GODependence
True freedom is being dependent on God

BIBLE READING CHALLENGES

Five minutes with God and His Word is worth more than all the rest of the day. - Oswald Chambers

01 December 2024 onwards

- ✓ Join one of our Bible reading plans
- ✓ Start reading at your own convenience

Scan the QR code to Join

For more information: **GODependence**
+965 6596 2559

Send a WhatsApp Message request in this format:
<Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>

www.godependence.com/brc

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True freedom is being dependent on God

BIBLE READING CONTEST

Bible in 1 Month Challenge

Five minutes with God and His Word is worth more than all the rest of the day. - Oswald Chambers

FROM 01 DECEMBER 2024

- Prize (Conditions apply) & Printed and E-Certificate on successful completion.
- No Registration Fees
- All are welcome to join the reading contest

* Open for all age groups *

For more information: **GODependence**
+965 6596 2559

Scan to Join

www.godependence.com/brc

GODependence
True freedom is being dependent on God

Bible Reading Challenges

Salient features of GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

1. Your choice of duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year. [Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months/ 3 months/ 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].
2. Choice of Language - 10 Languages (English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi and Bengali).
3. The Bible Reading portion is shared on the previous night itself.
4. Daily motivational quotes on reading the Bible.
5. Weekly, Bi-Weekly & Monthly reviews to check the Bible reading progress.
6. Catch-up days and Choice of changing the duration plans if required.
7. User-friendly WhatsApp group regulations - Exclusive group for Bible Reading.
8. Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (conditions apply)
9. No fee is involved anywhere in the process, directly or indirectly.
10. Scope for further engagement with the Word of God (Bible Meditation, Bible Memorization, and Bible Study)

A wonderful opportunity to read the Bible regularly and systematically at your convenience.

<https://www.godependence.com/brc>

2 More Weeks to go...

International Day of Bible Reading (IDBR) – 16 December 2024

The first ever "International Day of Bible Reading" was initiated and organised on the 16th of December 2023 by the GODependence Team remembering Mary Jones, a little girl whom God used to bring awareness of making the Bible available for all to read and know God's Word. This momentous occasion calls upon us to embrace the wisdom, guidance, and inspiration encapsulated within the pages of the Holy Bible by making it a habit of reading it.

Hundreds of GODependence Bible Reading Challenge participants joined in the inauguration ceremony held in Zoom on 16 December. More than 5000 people from various parts of the world became aware of the observance of the International Day of Bible Reading through various initiatives taken. This time we are aiming to make it more international than before.

The following are the suggested activities for the International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2024. You can plan to implement as much as possible on the 16 December or keep some of them for the 15 December which falls on Sunday.

Individually how shall I participate in the International Day of Bible Reading?

- Spend some time reading the scriptures, meditating, taking notes from it for your personal life, and spending time devoting yourself to it on December 16.
- One can meditate on a particular verse or portion of the Bible.
- Take a photo or selfie while you read and meditate on the Bible and share it on your WhatsApp Status, Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- You can also share the captured video of the recitation of memorised verses on your social networking sites.
- You can present the Holy Bible to someone in need in the circle of friends.
- While sharing the above photos, pictures, or videos on social media sites, use (#) hashtags #InternationalDayofBibleReading and #IDBR2024. It will ensure the "International Day of Bible Reading" reaches more people.
- It will also let all the people in your circle of friends know the details of the International Day of Bible Reading.

What could we do as a family, a church, or a group to observe International Day of Bible Reading On December 16?

- Come together as a group to a place and take turns to read a specific passage or Book of the Bible.
- Organize events or competitions to recite memorised verses.
- Conduct Bible quiz competitions.
- Organizing Seminars on the Holy Bible, its history, background, greatness, and its impact on individuals and society.
- One or more of the above events can be conducted as an In-Person or Online event.
- In-person events can be shared in the photo or video format on your personal, Church, and community groups' social media pages.
- When sharing the In-Person and Online events on social media pages, use (#) hashtags #InternationalDayofBibleReading and #IDBR2024. It will ensure the "International Day of Bible Reading" reaches more people.

What are we planning to do on the International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2024, as GODependence Team?

- We have arranged separate Zoom meetings on 16 December in English & Tamil & Hindi.
- We are conducting Mega online Bible Quiz – English & Tamil separately, which will be available to access on 15 & 16th December 2024.
- IDBR WhatsApp group for WhatsApp users to share their IDBR social media posts.
- Sending Birthday wishes with the hashtag of IDBR to those who have Birthday on 16 December. Those who are having Birthdays on 16 December can contact us.
- 12-hour Online Bible Readathon in English & Tamil separately.
- Giving away Bibles to needy people in all 10 languages of GODependence Bible Reading Challenges. Those who need any assistance can contact us.

More details of the above activities as Individuals and the events planned @ GODependence Team level for 16 December 2024 will be updated in the Bible Reading Challenge groups.

You can keep connected with the exclusive pages of IDBR 2024 as given in the box message.

Let us come together to honour this momentous occasion and celebrate the everlasting relevance of the Holy Bible in our lives.

With heartfelt anticipation,

Team GODependence



IDBR 2024

International Day of Bible Reading
Holy Bible
16 December

IDBR aims to spread an awareness among all Christians to read the Bible regularly.

**Want to hear God speak?
Read your Bible**

Reading the Bible is not where your engagement with the Bible ends. It's where it begins.

You are invited to join the International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2024 to read and celebrate the Word of God.

Pray **Promote**
Participate

For more details:
International Day of Bible Reading
+91 99628 34944
biblereadingday@gmail.com
#InternationalDayofBibleReading
#IDBR2024

You can keep you connected with the exclusive pages of IDBR 2024

#IDBR2024

- <https://tinyurl.com/IDBR-Dec16-FB>
- <https://tinyurl.com/IDBR-Dec16-Insta>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y8pn8ecr>
- <https://tinyurl.com/3hmbjdjs>



Send the answers with Bible references.
You can use the Bible (NKJV) to find the answers



A. Same names, but different persons.

1. John (2 persons)
2. Simon (4 persons)
3. Mary (1 person)
4. Joseph (2 persons)
5. James (3 persons)

C. Where is the parable in Mark?

1. Lamp under the basket
2. Old garment
3. Vinedressers
4. Fig tree
5. Master of the house

B. Whom does this object belong to?

1. Pitcher of water
2. Linen cloth
3. Oil of spikenard
4. Platter
5. Colt



<https://forms.gle/wk8ZqZxpYsmijtaF6>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 15/12/2024. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter

Correct Answers

- 1) The 2 blind men receive their sight (Matthew 9:27-30)
- 2) The 5,000 people eat from 5 loaves and 2 fish (Matthew 14:17-21)
- 3) The centurion's servant is healed (Matthew 8:5-13)
- 4) Money is taken out of the a fish's belly (Matthew 17:27)
- 5) The Canaanite woman's daughter is freed from the demon (Matthew 15:22-28)
- 6) The withering of the fig tree (Matthew 21:19)
- 7) Peter walking on the sea (Matthew 14:29)

Parables

- 1) The seed that fell on good soil (Matthew 13:8)
- 2) The lost sheep (Matthew 18:12,13)
- 3) The wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24,25)

LETS PLAY BIBLE
GAME - 1
Scripture: Matthew

The first 6 people who sent in the correct answers were:

1. Brigida S
2. Nirmala Beniel
3. Shrivika
4. Blessy
5. IFIOK PRECIOUS USORO
6. Tryphena Delighta J

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges



Names of those who successfully completed the Bible Reading Challenges as on 31 October 2024



1 Month	2 Months	3 Months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sis. T. HELAN JIJI Sis. R Padmavathi Sis. Hebsi Willingston Sis. R. Radhika Sis. T. Prema Sis. R. Jeyanthi Bro. Shunmugiah. M Sis. Vanitha Sis. T. SALOMI SAKUNTHALA RANI Bro. Saidur Rahman Simon Sis. JAYA PRIYA Sis.S. Viji Selvin Sis. R. Sunitha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pr. Paulraj Sis. A.HEPHZIBAH Sis. J. Beula Padmavathy Bro. Rajesh Kumar Sis. Hepzibah Robert Bro. Moses Muthu Kumar Sis. Angel Stanly Sis. Shoba Daniel Sis. Catherine Keerthana. R Bro. Bezalel Willingston Bro. Kishan Jaiswal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sis. Shanthi D Sis. Padumi Sonowal Sis. P. Devamani Rajam Sis. Beulah Balakumar, J.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sis. Nirmala Beniel Bro. E. Deva Anbu Sis. J. Hepziba Sis. T. Premala Kumari Sis. UshaRani G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sis. Valarmathi Mihavel Bro. M XAVIER BALACHANDRAN Sis. X.THERESE DEVI Sis. Indra Jones Bro. M. Arun Kumar Sis. Gnanamani Samuel Bro. Y. CHELLADURAI Bro. D ANDREW JAYARAJ Sis.ANUPRIYA. S Sis.ANITA BEULAH SUGANTHI D Sis. Angelina Shanth Bro. Abraham S Jebaveeran Sis. Asha Elsie Mary. J Sis. SANGEETHA Sis.Dasari Prasanthi Sis.Deena Kumari Bro. Nova 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sis .Esther rani. J Bro. James Gunasekaran Sis. R. Elice Sis. Hage Taniya Bro. Nyjin Sis. B. BEULAH AGNES
4 Months	6 Months	1 Year

Correct Answers

Across:

- Galilee (4:12-17)
- Pharisees (9:34)
- Beatitudes (5th chapter)
- John (3:13-16)
- Mustard seed (17:20)
- Bethlehem Matt (2:1)
- Tax collector (9:9)
- Fishing (4:18)
- Messiah (1:1)

Down:

- Disciples (10:1)
- Donkey (21:7)
- Kingdom (many references) 1st one is (4:17)
- Resurrection (16:21)
- Parables (many references) 1st one is (13:3)
- Judas (26:14)

The first 7 people who sent in the correct answers were:

- Brigida S
- Nirmala Beniel
- VASANTHI DEVADASON
- IFIOR PRECIOUS USORO
- P. Devamani Rajam
- BOAZ REJO E
- Tryphena Delighta J

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 Darwin Nesakumar A
 Shoba Daniel
 Josephine Shiny Paul
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Bible Crossword Puzzle - 1

Scripture: Matthew



Shiphrah & Puah

The midwives who dared to obey God than Pharaoh
(EXODUS 1:15-21)

The story of Shiphrah and Puah in Exodus 1:15-21 is a remarkable example of faith, courage, and obedience to God in the face of severe risk.

Pharaoh feared the growing strength of the Hebrew people, and in his desire to control them, he ordered Shiphrah and Puah to kill all newborn Hebrew boys. But they refused Pharaoh's horrific command. This act of defiance saved the lives of many Hebrew boys.

Lessons from Shiphrah and Puah's Faith

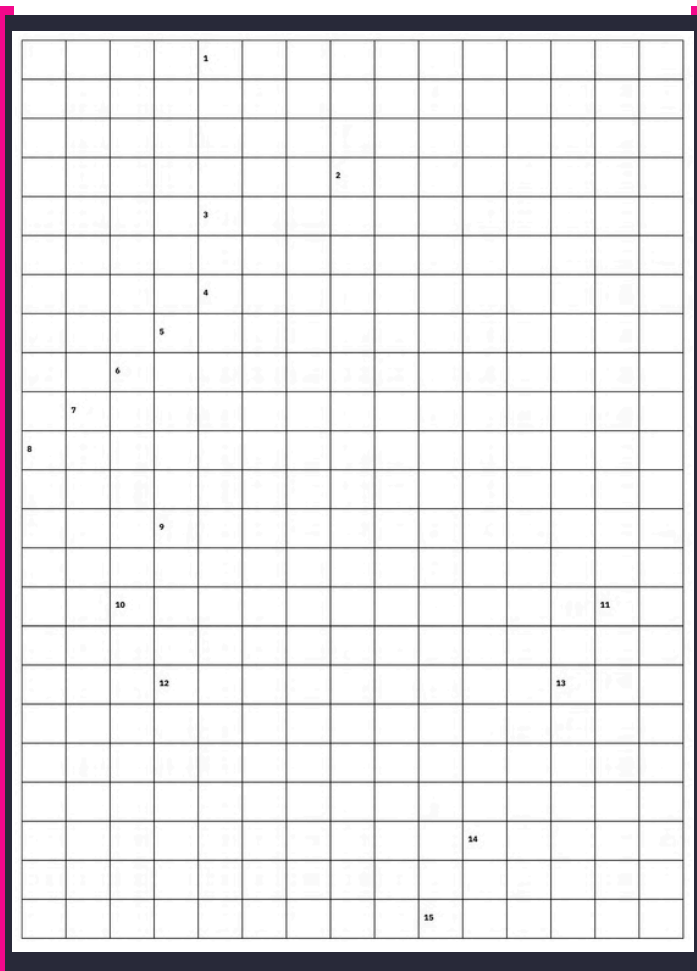
- **Obey God Courageously:** Shiphrah and Puah teach us that obeying God sometimes requires us to stand against unjust systems, even at great personal risk. Their story encourages us to put God's commands above human authority when the two conflict, trusting that God's purposes are worth any risk involved.

- **Trust God's Sovereignty:** The midwives had no guarantee of safety, yet they trusted that God would protect them. Their trust was rewarded, as God protected them and blessed them by giving them families of their own.
- **Recognise the Power of Small Acts:** Shiphrah and Puah were "ordinary" women who made an extraordinary impact. They show us that even small acts of faithfulness and courage can play a greater part in God's larger story of redemption.
- **Believe in God's Blessing:** When we obey God, His blessings may come in unexpected ways.

Shiphrah and Puah remind us that faith often requires risk, but God honours those who obey Him.

- BRO. A. R. PETER

Bible Crossword Puzzle - 2



Scripture: Mark

Note: Send the answers with Bible references.

You can use the Bible to find the answers

Across

- Parable about spreading the word
- Tax collector called to follow Jesus
- City where Jesus performed miracles
- Roman soldier who recognized Jesus' divinity
- Jesus is identified as this Savior
- Garden where Jesus prayed
- Religious group that questioned Jesus
- Essential quality for healing
- The Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus

Down

- Disciple who betrayed Jesus
- Name of the demon Jesus cast out
- Blind man Jesus healed
- Ruler who ordered John the Baptist's execution
- Jesus' hometown mentioned in Mark
- Holy day for rest; discussed in Mark

<https://forms.gle/M5sy5s1ppjGL6Yat6>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 15/12/2024. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter

Gospel of Mark

Time of Writing: A.D. 50-60

Author of the Book: Mark

Time of Events: B.C. 7 - A.D. 26

Type of Book: Gospel

Introduction to the Book

• Mark was a cousin of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul on his initial journeys and was a steadfast companion during Paul's final days (2 Timothy 4:11). He also served as a companion to the apostle Peter. The Gospel of Mark, believed to be written by John Mark, was likely penned in Rome around AD 60. It is the shortest of the four Gospels and focuses on the powerful ministry of Jesus Christ. Mark's Gospel emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teachings. It portrays Jesus as the suffering servant who came to fulfill God's plan of salvation. The book highlights Jesus' miracles, His authority over nature and demons, and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

Context and Purpose

• The Gospel of Matthew was primarily written for fellow Jews, while the Gospel of Mark was targeted towards believers, especially Gentiles (Romans 1:8). Mark penned this Gospel for Christians who had accepted the Gospel through preaching. His aim was to strengthen the faith of these Gentiles who were facing severe persecution, to teach them the meaning of being Jesus' disciples, and to inspire them to follow the life of Jesus Christ as the world's Savior.

Key Verses

- Mark 1:11, Mark 1:17, Mark 10:14-15, Mark 10:45, Mark 12:33, Mark 16:6, Mark 16:15

Summary of the Book

• The second part of the book emphasizes Jesus Christ as the suffering Servant who came to save all people. Mark explains the core teaching of the early church—that Jesus suffered, died, and was resurrected—through the events of Jesus' life. This Gospel is unique because it focuses more on Jesus' actions than His teachings. Unlike Matthew, it doesn't begin with a genealogy, as Gentiles would not be interested in His ancestral lineage. Instead, it focuses on Jesus' ministry to Gentiles and His message of salvation for all. After introducing Jesus, Mark describes Jesus' public ministry, which began in Galilee and spread to Judea. Jesus touched many lives, and His crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection were pivotal events witnessed by His faithful followers, particularly women.

Jesus Christ in the Book

• Mark's perspective as a Gentile writer differs from Matthew's Jewish perspective. He doesn't frequently quote from the Old Testament, as he doesn't need to connect Jesus to Jewish traditions. Instead, he begins Jesus' ministry with His baptism, highlighting the voice of John the Baptist, which echoes the Old Testament prophecy of preparing the way for the Lord. Mark often criticizes the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and hard-heartedness, quoting the prophet Isaiah to expose their spiritual condition. When Jesus was arrested and crucified, Mark quotes Isaiah's prophecy about the suffering servant. And when Jesus declared Himself to be the bread of life, He referenced the Psalms.

Practical Application

• "Mark presents Jesus as a divine servant who suffered and sacrificed for us. Just as He did, we too should serve others humbly and faithfully. Jesus taught us that to be great in the kingdom of God, we must serve everyone. Just as Jesus was willing to be humbled by laying down His life for His sheep, we too should be ready to be humbled."

Structure of the Book

- Part 1. Introduction 1:1-13
- Part 2. Jesus is the Messiah 1:14-8:30
 - Jesus and the Crowds 1:14-3:6
 - Jesus and His Disciples 3:7-6:6a
 - Jesus Reveals Himself to His Disciples 6:6-8:26
 - Jesus as the Suffering Servant
- Part 3. Jesus is the Son of Man
 - The Son of Man who travels
 - The Son of Man in Jerusalem
 - The revelation of the Son of Man
- Part 4. Conclusion

COLLECTION: BRO. DARWIN NESAKUMAR A

 **GODdependence**

Testimony

Sis. Ruth Mary Ezra

Praise the Lord...

I am Ruth Mary Ezra. I was born in Nagpur, Maharashtra. My schooling and college were at Christian Institute. I was very secular. My husband's name is Ezra Jeba. We have three sons Obed, Luke, and Boas. All praise and glory be to God almighty.

I'm grateful to have a Lord for drawing me closer to Him, it was a wonderful experience reading the word of God like never before. Praise God for the GODependence team and our family friend Dr. Shirley Robin for sharing the One-month Bible Reading Plan. I believe this was God's perfect time too.

Every year on the first of January I take up the resolution to read the bible in a year. I have seen my mother reading the Bible most of the time. She must have completed it six to seven times. She would encourage us to read Psalms and Proverbs each day. I have read this several times. But when I tried reading from Genesis I would not progress beyond the book of Exodus. I would listen to a sermon, read the passage after coming home and be blessed. I took Sunday School lessons from a reference book but the stories I knew as I was growing up.

But I thank God for the GODependence team which enabled me to take a challenge and to read the bible as a whole. I was delighted to study the Bible with a deeper understanding of God. Each day was exciting and I had developed a love for the Word of God and wanted to learn more from it. It was a wonderful journey of sharing with my friends and family the new things I discovered while reading the Bible. I understood the Psalms and Proverbs well after reading 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings and Chronicles.

I found much encouragement in reading the miracles of Elijah, Elisa, the parable of Jesus and the miracles of Jesus. I was moved by the story of Rich Man and Lazarus. As in Luke 16:31, he said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

My youngest son knew the story before me through SuperBook. I praise God for the interest and focus God has given me to explore his word and transform my faith and life. I was happy to finish the Bible reading before my first son could complete it.

Each time our family faced difficulties and troubles I would question God, "Why me, Lord?" and would easily give up my hope in life like the Israelites who lamented to Moses. There are many more stories in my life that I can keep sharing in which I saw God's hand and encouragement as I gave my time to read God's Word. Reading the Bible and being able to finish it in a month has built a desire in me to read the Word of God 12 times a year. What peace I enjoy, the experience I have received. All praise and glory be to our Heavenly Father alone.

Dear friends in Christ, reading the Bible during difficult times is like taking medicine when we become ill. I pray we read the Bible daily to strengthen ourselves spiritually to face the challenges in our day-to-day lives and extend the kingdom of God. I thank and praise God for this testimony.

I hope this will help many of my friends to read the Bible. And as it is said, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good," it's truly a great experience. I encourage each one of you to read the Bible in a month or year. Praise be to God. Thank you so much!

CLICK THE FOLLOWING YOUTUBE LINKS TO SEE MORE TESTIMONIES

- **If you take a BIBLE TODAY; The BIBLE will Take You TOMORROW** [BRO. SAMUEL STAINESON](#)
- **Every Time The Word is New, Get a New Perspective On the Same Words** [DR. CHRISTIANA JOSEPH](#)
- **God's Word gave me Hope; I was very Blessed** [SIS. HANNAH SEB](#)
- **Without knowing GOD's Word how will we get to know the unseen GOD?** [SIS. CHARISMA ISRAELINE.](#)

GODependence Events

CHILDREN BIBLE READING CHALLENGE (CBRC)

More than 250 Students have enrolled in Children's Bible Reading challenge groups for the year 2024-25. They are reading Bible daily and memorising few verses per week. Reciting the Memory Verses for the Term -1 has been completed now and the participants of the memory verses competition have become eligible for Prizes.



BIBLE MEDITATION GROUPS (BMG) - JANUARY 2025

GODdependence started the Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) for regular meditation on the Holy Bible in August 2020 and then in July 2022. These groups were held for about one year duration each. Now, we are planning to start them again in January 2025 and to conduct them continuously. The trainings for the participants will be given in January 2025. Detailed information about this will appear in the next issue. Pray for the preparatory works and participate in the BMGs.



BIBLE READING CHALLENGES (BRC) FROM 01 DECEMBER 2024 ONWARDS

So if you are interested in completing Reading the whole Bible, join in one of the Challenges we designed for your convenience. Please make your choice of convenient Duration plan and Language group and inform us of your decision along with your Name (as to be printed in the Appreciation Certificate on successful completion of the Challenge) and Age to the WhatsApp number +965 6596 2559 by clicking this link: <https://wa.me/96565962559>

"The Bible is the answer to all the questions of human life"



BIBLE READING CONTEST - FROM 01 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

- Bible reading plan that helps you read around 44 chapters from the Old Testament and New Testament each day and complete reading the whole Bible in 1 month.
- All those who successfully complete the challenge for the first time through GODdependence will receive a Prize & certificate. Others will receive a Printed and E - Certificate on successful completion.
- No Registration Fee... Hurry up!
- Are you interested to join in the contest? Then click the following link to join the group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FnBaTzZclv8OgjkWpBv1B>



GODdependence Bible Reading Challenges



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If you look at the Bible as a whole, it's redemptive and beautiful, and it's God's love story to mankind.

- Tom Shadyac