

November 2024



## Let us Read and Reason Together...



Every year, more than 100 million (or 10 crore) Bibles are printed in different languages worldwide. The Bible has been at the top of the list of best-selling books worldwide for many years. However, many Christian homes still do not have even a single copy of the Bible; meanwhile, some Christian families have many Bibles but never read them and always keep them on their bookshelves.

With the help of ever-changing information and technological development, we can save many Bibles on our mobile phones in any language and open and read them within a few seconds. However, “Do we read the Bible daily?” or, “Do all Christians read the Bible regularly?” Many statistics say that the number of people who do not read the Bible regularly outnumber those who do it regularly.

Before the advent of the printing press, Bibles were not available to everyone as they are today. When Johannes Gutenberg first printed the Bible in AD1450, he printed merely 180 copies. Gutenberg printed the Latin Vulgate. 49 copies of the Bibles Gutenberg printed are still preserved in some museums. The Bible holds the distinction of being the first printed book in most languages of the world. We can list thousands of internal and external evidence that attest to the glory of the Bible.

On the other hand, the present modern generation may ask questions like, “The Bible is just like any other religious text; what is unique in it?” “How can a book written 2000 years ago be sufficient for present-day situations and challenges?” Others may think, “Is the Bible really the Word of God? What evidence do we have for it?” In this series, I want to write about the uniqueness of the Bible and why the Bible is essential for our Christian living and faith.

I want to ask you a question in this article: “Have you read the whole Bible at least once in your lifetime?” Please contact us to join one of our Bible reading challenges and read through the Bible within a specific period.

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.

Before sin entered into the world, God provided every green herb for food to all animals, birds, and everything that creeps on the earth.  
(Ref: Genesis 1:30)

**Did you know?**

Adam was not created in the garden of Eden.  
(Ref: Genesis 3:23, 2:8,15)



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the GODependence team, I extend my warm greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are extremely happy about the grace of God to bring out this very first Newsletter of the GODependence ministry that has crossed 5 years.

We believe that true freedom is being dependent on God. Keeping this truth in mind, our vision is: 'to enlighten, enrich, and empower people to become dependent on God'. We seek to help people become dependent on God by engaging with God's Word and prayer.

Bible reading and Prayer are like the two eyes of a believer. Ignorance of the Holy Scriptures leads to ignorance of the Holy God. Jesus Christ says, 'You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me' (John 5:39). Bible Reading is only the first step to a systematic Bible Study. Are we doing at least this properly?

The GODependence newsletter presents information on our regular Bible Reading Challenges, details of those who successfully completed reading the Holy Bible, their testimonies glorifying God, and information about our other ministry efforts. Also, every issue contains spiritual articles, snippets, and Bible quizzes for adults and children to help their spiritual growth.

The GODependence newsletter is currently published in English and Tamil. We pray and plan to publish it every month. As you read the GODependence newsletter, you will surely be uplifted in your spirit and grow in reading the Bible. Your desire and thirst for the scriptures will increase within you. We hope and pray that through this you will grow in Christ and live depending on God.

Continue to pray for the ministries of GODependence. Introduce our services to others. Glory be to the name of the Lord.



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

## PRAISING & PRAYER POINTS



### Let's Praise God:

1. For the way the Lord has led the GODependence ministry over the past five years.
2. For the God-given Vision and Mission of GODependence ministry.
3. For ongoing Bible Reading Challenge groups in 6 different plans and 10 languages, that are initiated on the first day of each month.
4. For more than 12,000 contacts who have signed up for Bible Reading Challenges from 52 countries
5. For Bible Meditation Groups and Children's Bible Reading Groups.



### Let's Pray:

1. Everyone who participates in the Bible reading challenges to overcome all hurdles and complete the Bible reading successfully.
2. Bible Meditation Groups to be restarted from January 2025 onwards.
3. To launch a new Bible reading challenge group in the Nepali language, as well as the preparatory work. May the Lord grant wisdom to those who are involved in that activity.
4. GODependence Newsletter to be published regularly every month and to be a blessing to many.
5. For the special events planned for the International Day of Bible Reading (Dec 16), and for Christians from different countries to join this special day.

# 5

## Questions GOD ASKS YOU

- Bro. ARPUTHARAJ Samuel, Bangalore.

Every day, we face various questions in our lives. Some questions might make us uncomfortable, but some of them comfort us. You might have heard preachers saying that the Bible answers all questions people may ask. Of course, it is true. The Bible is not just a book that answers our questions. It also has many questions. In the Bible, some questions are rhetorical; some tell us who God is, and some make us self-examine and think. In the Bible, we see many questions God asked an individual or his people. Our God speaks and interacts with us because he is the living God. If God asks you a question, what would be your answer? Let us look at some of the questions God asked his people.

### 1. Where are you?

The first recorded question in the Bible is, "Where are you, Adam?" "Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9) It doesn't mean God Almighty does not know where Adam is. God asked Adam whether he was in the same place/position where God put him. Our God always wants to maintain a loving relationship with humanity. The relationship between God and humans is unique in Christianity compared to other religions. Let us think about ourselves: where are we? Are we in the place God placed us or wants us to be?

### 2. What are you doing?

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" This is the question the Lord asked the famous prophet Elijah after he had done great work and was hiding in fear for his life. "There he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9)

We must know what we are doing. We must not think about our human limitations and hide ourselves from what the Lord wants to do through us. God never looks at our ability to use us for his work. When God calls us, he gives us the strength and training to do His work. When we ask God, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" he 5 gives us the direction and guidance to do his work.

### 3. What is in your hand?

After Moses foolishly killed an Egyptian and fled to Midian, he was in the wilderness and forgot all his abilities (Acts 7:22). Instead of leading his people, he was tending the flock of his father-in-law. When God asked him to return to Egypt and deliver his people, Moses made excuses and asked for signs so that people may believe him and that God indeed sent him. "So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2).

God always works with what is in our hands. When we give it to God, he uses it for his glory and helps people understand who he is. Ordinary and useless things in our hands become extraordinary and valuable tools in the hands of the mighty God. Instead of worrying about many things, when we give God what is in our hands, He changes them to be blessings to many.

### 4. Is there anything too hard for Me?

When we have a chronic disease or a problem for a long period, it will be difficult for us to believe that we will have a sudden remedy. Although we want to see a change or a solution, we do not accept it immediately. When God gave his word to Sarah that she would bear a son, she couldn't believe it. Then God says, 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' (Genesis 18:13) When God asks this question, he wants to know what we think of him.

God says, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me? (Jeremiah 32:27)

### 5. Do you love me?

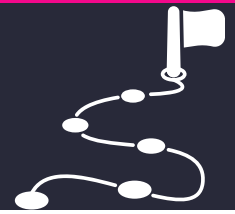
I would like to turn your attention to another important question Jesus asked his disciple, Peter Jesus asked him, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" When Jesus repeatedly asked, "Do you love me?" it would have raised many questions in Simon Peter's mind. It is evident that Peter "was hurt." We may wonder why Jesus asked him the same question again and again. Jesus made Peter affirm his love and faith in Jesus.

First two times, Jesus used the Greek word that denotes unconditional love but Peter couldn't understand it. So the third time Jesus referred to the same word Peter used in his response, friendly/brotherly love. When Jesus asked the question again, "Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You" (John 21:17) See the difference in Peter's answer. When we submit ourselves to God and His wisdom, God reveals his plans for our lives.

Jesus wants us to love him more than anything else. In love, he became a man; he demonstrated his love for us on the cross. Some worldly people seek partners for their crimes, but Jesus calls us to receive the crown of righteousness. Jesus expects that we would love him as he loved us. The Bible says, "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Rom.5:5). May God help us to practice this godly love and share it with our neighbors. ●



What will your response be if Jesus asks you these questions today?



## 5 Years of GODEpendence

We know that the GODEpendence ministry was started in 2019 by God's abundant grace and His eternal plan and it has continued to be a channel of blessing to many Christians the world over in various ways for the last five years. In this Q&A series, we are going to see the history of the "5 Years of GODEpendence" ministry. Come, let's ask our questions directly to Dr. Pethuru Devadason who started the GODEpendence Ministry.

- **Bro. Densingh Dennis, Kuwait.**

**Question: Brother, the GODEpendence ministry has been functioning for the last five years. Was it an online ministry that started during the COVID-19 lockdown?**

**Answer:** We should not think it is a ministry that started during Covid time just because it is in operation for the past five years. Even a year before the Covid lockdown, God planted the seed for this ministry, and it already started sprouting before Covid. During 2019 Lent days, I participated in a 40 days Bible Reading Challenge conducted by Bro. Charles Money. It was a different and new experience for me to read the whole Bible in such a short time. I was raised in a Pentecostal family and received the salvation experience even before I entered college life, and grew in the Lord through the 'Union of Evangelical Students of India – Tamilnadu (EU-EGF)' during my college days and was actively engaged in various ministries of UESI. I had previously read the entire New Testament and several books of the Old Testament multiple times. However, when I read the whole Holy Bible in 40 days, I felt guilty that I didn't read some books of the Bible even once. I thought that the majority of Christians and many full-time ministers might be in a similar position (of not reading all the books of the Bible) to me.

Apart from this, I became convinced that ignorance of the Bible is the reason for the various false teachings and the doctrinal deviations found in the Christian community. So, based on the intuition that the Lord gave me I decided to do something for it. In the very next month of May 2019, I introduced the one-month Bible reading challenge to my close friends in Kuwait during the Ramadan fasting days. The experiences and the suggestions I got from it helped me launch the Bible Reading Challenges formally in July 2019.

**Question: How did you get the idea to start this as a ministry?**

**Answer:** I have been practicing as a Doctor in a private hospital in Kuwait since 2015. While I was in India, I used to engage in various responsibilities such as participating in the local prayer groups of the students & graduates in EU/EGF, coordinating them, and serving at the district and state levels. After I came to Kuwait, I had a lot of free time. However when I decided to use it appropriately for the Lord, I did not have a proper opportunity to do so. In this situation, based on the intuition that arose in my personal Bible reading experience in 2019, when I prayed and thought about this and took forward the Bible reading challenges, it became a ministry based on the vision given by God.

**Question: How did you organize the Bible Reading Challenge to read the whole Bible within a month during Ramadan in May 2019?**

**Answer:** Many of you may know that in the Gulf countries people will have two hours reduced work hours during the 30 days of the Ramadan fasting. Some studies suggest that it takes only 72 hours to read the entire Bible. Based on this, I had the idea that if I spent an additional 12 hours to the 60 hours free time I had during Ramadan, I could read through the Bible once more. So I proposed this challenge only with my Christian friends circle in Kuwait. 28 of them took up the challenge and participated along with me. 14 of them dropped out during the Biweekly Review as they couldn't continue in the challenge. Of the remaining 14 participants, 3 completed the reading successfully. I couldn't complete the challenge successfully this time because I had to put in a lot of effort to administer it. I gave away prizes and certificates of appreciation to all the 3 participants who successfully completed the Bible reading. It was very encouraging to them.

**Question: There are currently six type of Bible Reading Challenges to read the Bible in different durations... How did they get started?**

**Answer:** Based on the experience and the suggestions from those who participated in the one-month challenge, we decided to initiate a three-month challenge. So in July 2019, we sent a 3-month challenge in Tamil to all our friends in India. Hundreds of them joined in. The same 3-month Bible reading challenges continued on the first day of the subsequent months. Those who participated in these challenges introduced their relatives and friends, and these challenges began to continue with additional participants every month. We initiated it in English in September 2019 because of the requests from friends as a 3-month challenge. In the meantime, knowing that many participants of these challenges have different views, from October 2019 onwards we introduced in Tamil and English groups the 5 types of challenges to read the entire Bible in 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 months at their convenience in a practical manner. There was a good response for these new initiatives. The one-year Bible reading challenge was not added at that time. I thought that reading the whole Bible in a year is not at all a challenge. However, due to continuous requests from the participants, we added it to the list in January 2020.

Every month more and more new participants had been joining the different Bible reading challenges. I realized that I alone cannot conduct these Bible reading challenges further. So at the end of October 2019, I took a prayerful decision and made a general call to 30 of my friends with Christian ministry aspirations to work together as a team to take on these challenges. 9 of them agreed to volunteer with me in this ministry effort. So, since November 2019, this ministry has been going on as the GODependence Team.

'For who has despised the day of small things?' (Zechariah 4:10). This GODependence ministry, which started humbly in 2019, now after 5 years, is going on with 6 different duration plans in 10 languages, with the Bible reading challenge groups initiated on the first of every month. Along with Indians, more than 12 thousand people from 52 countries from all continents have signed up and benefited from our Bible reading challenges. Beyond the Bible reading challenges, God favors us to do various activities like Bible Meditation, Bible Memorisation, and Bible Study. Be all glory to God alone.

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

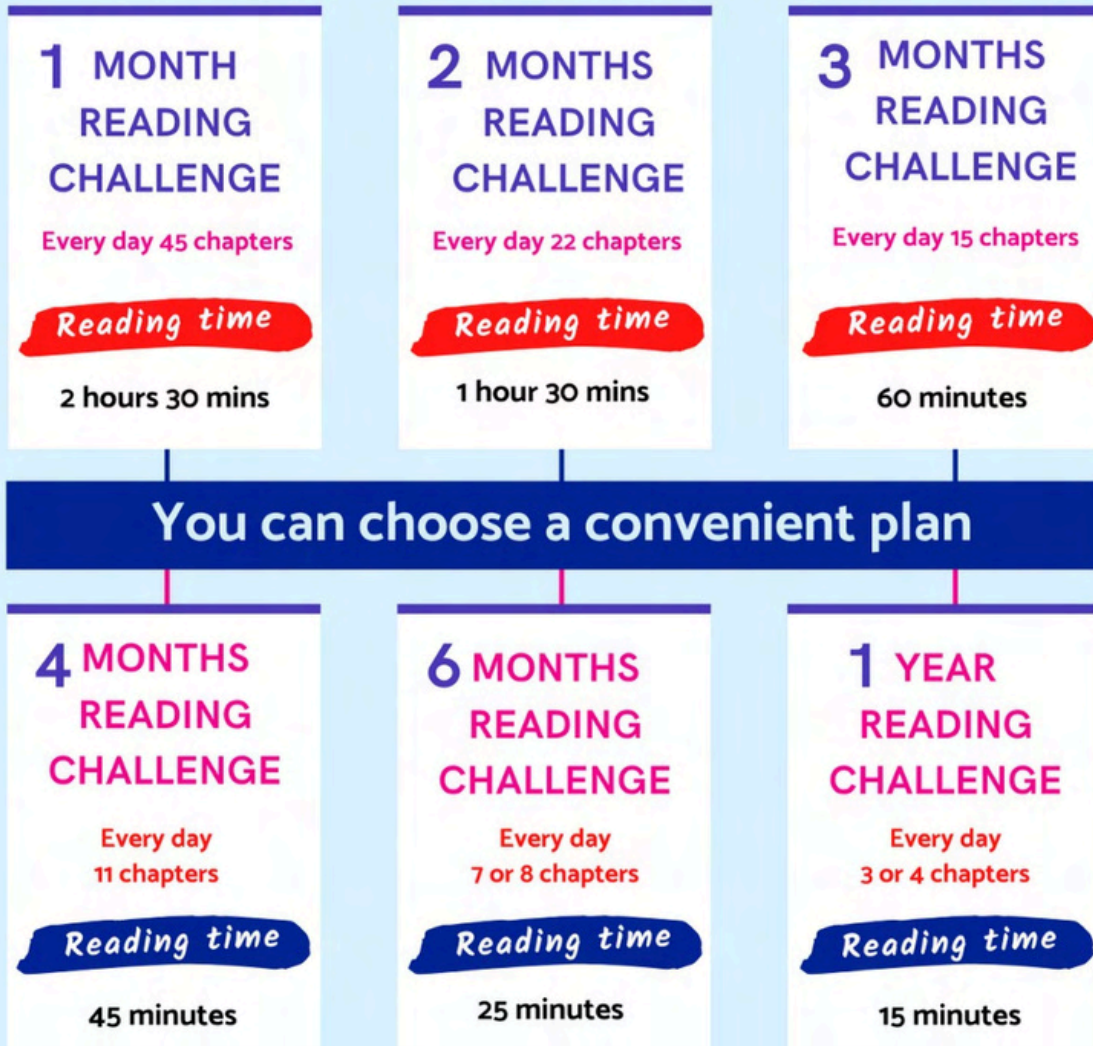


## Bible Reading Challenges

6 Plans in 10\* Languages

### Reading Planner

\*OUR BIBLE READING CHALLENGES START ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH.



Why delay? Join today!

Contact:  +965 6596 2559

Send a WhatsApp Message request in this format:

<Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>.

\*You can join any reading plan that fits your desire and language.

\*Our reading plans are available in English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi and Bengali languages.

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

It was the privilege for the GODependence Team to organise the first-ever "International Day of Bible Reading" on the 16th December 2023, 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. 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 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. This we are aiming to make it more international than before.

**The following are the suggested activities for International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December based on the experience we had last year:**

## **As an individual, how shall I participate in the International Day of Bible Reading?**

- \*Spend some time to read the scriptures, meditate, take notes from it for your personal life, and spend 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 memorized verses on your social networking sites.
- \*You can present the Holy Bible to someone in need in the circle of friends.
- \*While sharing above photos, pictures, or videos in the 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 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 books of the Bible.
- \*Organize events or competitions to recite memorized verses.
- \*Conduct Bible quiz competitions.
- \*Organizing Seminars on the Holy Bible, its history, background, greatness, 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 the 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 going to do on the International Day of Bible Reading on 16 December 2024, as GODependence Team?**

- \*To organise a Zoom meeting on 16 December in English & Tamil & Hindi separately
- \*To conduct Mega Bible Quiz online – English & Tamil.
- \*To manage a temporary WhatsApp group for WhatsApp users to share their IDBR social media posts.
- \*To share Birthday wishes with the hashtag of IDBR to those who are having Birthday on 16 December.
- \*To organise Bible Readathon
- \*To give away Bibles to the needy people in all 10 languages of GODependence Bible Reading Challenges.

More details of the suggested activities as Individuals and the events planned @ GODependence Team level for 16 December 2024 will follow in the next issue.

Come... Let's unite together to promote the International Day of Bible Reading emphasizing the need to read the Holy Bible. You can keep you connected with the exclusive pages of IDBR 2024

- #IDBR2024 Facebook Page: <https://tinyurl.com/IDBR-Dec16-FB>
- #IDBR2024 Instagram: <https://tinyurl.com/IDBR-Dec16-Insta>
- #IDBR2024 YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/y8pn8ecr>
- #IDBR2024 X Page: <https://tinyurl.com/3hmbydjs>

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 Participate Promote

For more details:  
**International Day of Bible Reading**

[f](#) [i](#) [x](#) [v](#) [w](#) +91 99628 34944

**#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/3hmbydjs>

# GOdependence Bible Reading Challenges



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



1 Month	2 Months	3 Months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sis. Sherine Ranjit</li> <li>Sis. Nathiya @ Megitha</li> <li>Sis. R. Jeyanthi</li> <li>Sis. T. Prema</li> <li>Sis. S. Geetha</li> <li>Sis. Vanitha</li> <li>Bro. Shunmugiah. M</li> <li>Sis. Hebsi Willingston</li> <li>Sis. R Padmavathi</li> <li>Sis.T.Helan Jiji</li> <li>Bro. Debashis Goswami</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sis. P. Jamunarani</li> <li>Sis. P. Pavithra</li> <li>Sis. Nisha Jangde</li> <li>Bro. Amar Kamble</li> <li>Sis. T. Salomi</li> <li>Sakunthala rani</li> <li>Sis. M. Jeya Selvi</li> <li>Muthuraman</li> <li>Sis. J. Sangeetha Jenish</li> <li>Segar</li> <li>Sis. P. Kalavathy</li> <li>Elumalai</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sis. Jeba Angel Rani K</li> <li>Sis. Miss. D. Helan Mercy</li> <li>Sis. Augusta Kani G</li> <li>Sis. E.Flora Packiathai</li> <li>Bro. Jebaraj Fletcher A.S</li> <li>Sis. D. Primrose Jebamary</li> <li>Bro. B M Mark</li> <li>Sis. Esther Shanthini Raju</li> <li>Sis. Ma Corazon D Ollado</li> <li>Bro. Rev Dr Arun Christopher</li> <li>Sis. R.kiruba Jansi mary</li> <li>Sis. Anne Sangeetha.D</li> <li>Sis. S. Jebabai Padmini</li> <li>Sis. Beaulah Enoch</li> <li>Sis. D. Lilly Florida</li> <li>Sis. Marine Phelsia</li> <li>Sis. Sujitha Juliet</li> <li>Sis. Akash Dalvi</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sis. Vanila Ratnaraj</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sis. M John of Arc Flora</li> <li>Sis. Brigida S</li> <li>Bro. M Samuel</li> <li>Bro. Lemuel Paul</li> <li>Sis. P. Manipappa</li> <li>Viola Jebas</li> <li>Sis. Arockia Mary Anita. E</li> <li>Sis. R. Tamil Selvi</li> <li>Sis. Umakanagaraj</li> <li>Sis. K. P. Jayabarathi</li> <li>Sis. S. Cassia Jemima</li> <li>Sis. Jeba Rosy James</li> <li>Sis. Deepa Theodore</li> <li>Sis. Shyni Jose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sis. Dasari Subbayamma</li> <li>Sis. Regina Samuel</li> <li>Sis. C. Ramani</li> <li>Sis. S.Johnsi Julius.</li> <li>Sis. Banu Joseph</li> <li>Sis. Josephine Lilly</li> </ul>
4 Months	6 Months	1 Year

### Let's Play Bible Game - 1

Find out the Miracles (1-7) and Parables (8-10) from the Book of Gospel according to Matthew

**Find the Miracles**

**Find the Parables**

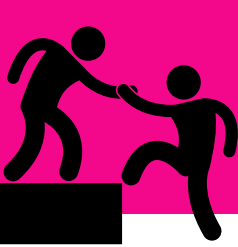
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<https://forms.gle/s3nz7sEZrzyTpPZj9>

Click on the given link and send the correct answers before 15/11/2024.  
The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter





# Barzillai

The man who used his wealth and influence for the benefit of others.

(2 SAMUEL 17: 27-28; 19: 31-39)



In the book of 2 Samuel, we encounter a man named Barzillai. Although he is a lesser-known figure in the Bible, his life teaches us many things.

King David and his men were fleeing for their lives from Absalom. They needed more food and other provisions. Then, a rich old man named Barzillai and two other men generously brought food, bedding, bowls, and other items (2 Samuel 17: 27-28).

After the death of Absalom, David was going to return to Jerusalem. Then Barzillai also came to cross Jordan with the king to send him on his way from there. Then, the King invited Barzillai to spend the rest of his life at the palace with him. Barzillai politely declined the offer by saying that he was old and could not enjoy the pleasures of the palace.

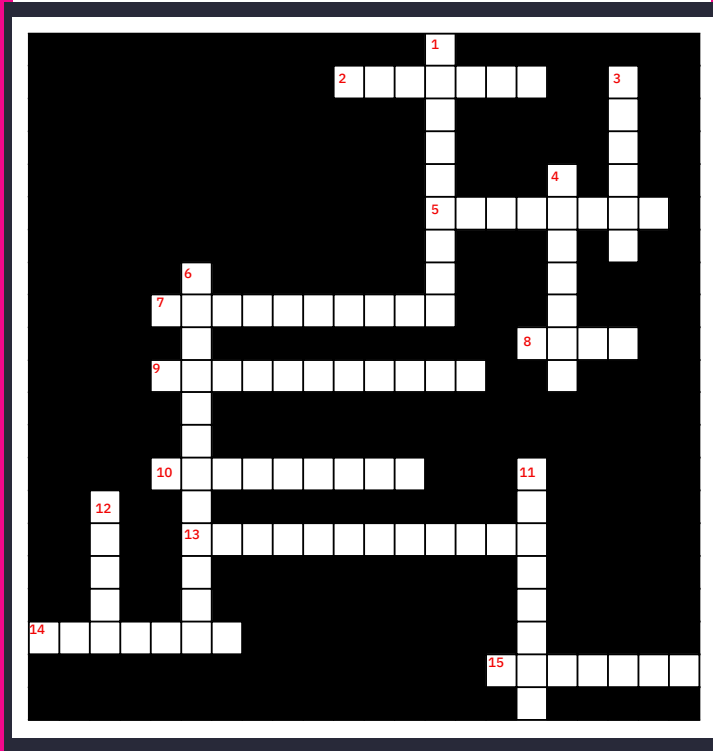
Barzillai proposed to the king that Kimham be taken with him. Kimham would have had a great career under the King for the rest of his life.

## Takeaways from Barzillai

- We should use our wealth to help people in dire need.
- We should be content with what we have. We should not covet the luxuries of life that are unnecessary for us.
- We should resolve in our hearts that we would not grab something just because it was offered to us free of cost.
- We should use our influence in a just way to lift other people's lives.

- BRO. A. R. PETER

## Bible Crossword Puzzle - 1 (Matthew)



### Across

2. Region where Jesus began His ministry
5. Religious leaders opposed to Jesus
7. The first section of the Sermon on the Mount
8. Gave Baptism to Jesus
9. Jesus compares faith to this
10. The place where Jesus born
13. The occupation of Matthew before becoming a disciple
14. Peter's profession
15. Jesus was called this as the promised savior

### Down

1. The twelve who followed Jesus
3. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on this
4. The central theme of Jesus' teachings
6. Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day
11. Stories used by Jesus to teach
12. Betrayed Jesus

<https://forms.gle/M5sy5s1ppjGL6Yat6>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 15/11/2024.

The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter

## Gospel of Matthew

**Time of Writing:** A.D. 50-60

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

**Author of the Book:** Apostle Matthew

**Type of Book:** Gospel

### Introduction to the Book

- This book was written for Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians in cities like Antioch, which had a large Greek-speaking Jewish population.
- There were many issues among them. Additionally, many Jewish Christians were suffering persecution from other Jews and were experiencing discouragement.
- Matthew extensively quotes Jesus as the true leader starting from Abraham and from the prophets. He frequently uses the phrase "spoken through the prophet(s)." Verses such as Matthew 16:17, 13:35, and 21:4-5 refer to his virgin birth in Bethlehem (Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2), his return from Egypt after Herod's death (Hosea 11:1), and Old Testament prophecies regarding his ministry to the Gentiles (Isaiah 9:1-2; 60:1-3), as well as his miraculous healings of both body and soul (Isaiah 53:4), speaking in parables (Psalm 78:2), and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9).

### Context and Purpose

- After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, Jewish communities persecuted Christians. During the time when the disciples of Jesus began to gather as a church, having left the Jewish synagogues, it became essential to teach about forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Matthew aims to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the proclaimed Messiah. Unlike any other Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew illustrates how Jesus fulfilled the words of the Jewish prophets by referencing the Old Testament.

### Key Verses

- Matthew 5:17, Matthew 5:43-44, Matthew 6:9-13, Matthew 16:26, Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 27:31, Matthew 28:5-6, Matthew 28:19-20

### Summary of the Book

- The Gospel of Matthew describes the lineage, birth, and early life of Christ in the first two chapters.
- From there, it details Jesus' ministry. Chapters 5 to 7 provide explanations of Christ's teachings, including the Sermon on the Mount.
- Chapter 10 includes the mission and purpose of the disciples. Chapter 13 is a collection of parables. Chapter 18 discusses the church. Chapters 21 to 27 describe the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. The final chapter details the resurrection and the Great Commission.

### Jesus Christ in the Book

- Through 60 quotations from the prophetic parts of the Old Testament, this book establishes Jesus Christ as the King of Israel and the Messiah, demonstrating how He fulfilled the prophecies. Matthew begins his Gospel with Abraham, the forefather of the Jews, and extensively references the prophets. He frequently uses

the phrase "spoken through the prophet(s)" (Matthew 1:22-23, 2:5-6, 2:15, 4:13-16).

- Verses such as Matthew 16:17, 13:35, and 21:4-5 refer to His virgin birth in Bethlehem (Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2), His return from Egypt after Herod's death (Hosea 11:1), and the Old Testament prophecies regarding His ministry to the Gentiles (Isaiah 9:1-2; 60:1-3). It also mentions His miraculous healing of both body and soul (Isaiah 53:4), speaking through parables (Psalm 78:2), and His triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9).

### Practical Application

- Many Jews, particularly the Pharisees and Sadducees, stubbornly refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Despite having studied the Old Testament for centuries, their eyes were blind to the truth of who Jesus was.
- Jesus rebuked them for their hard hearts and for refusing to recognize the one they were expecting (John 5:38-40). They desired a Messiah who would fulfil their own desires and do what they wanted.
- How often do we seek God on our own terms? Do we only acknowledge the qualities of Jesus as the proclaimed Messiah that we agree with, while rejecting him? We should not make the same mistakes as the Pharisees. We should not create God in our own image and then expect him to live up to our standards.

### Structure of the Book

Introduction:

The Birth and Childhood of Jesus (1-2)

Part 1: Proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven (3-7)

1) Events (3,4)

2) Teachings (5-7) (Sermon on the Mount)

Part 2: Ministry of the Kingdom of Heaven (8-10)

1) Events (8,9)

2) Teachings (10) (Apostolic Commission)

Part 3: Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven (11:1-13:52)

1) Events (11,12)

2) Teachings (13:1-52) (Parabolic Teachings)

Part 4: Organization of the Kingdom of Heaven (13:53-18:52)

1) Events (13:53-17)

2) Teachings (18) (Church Teachings)

Part 5: Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven (19-25)

1) Events (19-23)

2) Teachings (24,25) (Eschatological Teachings)

Conclusion:

The Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus (26-28)

COLLECTION: BRO. DARWIN NESAKUMAR A

 **GODependence**

# Testimony

- Sis. Josephine Shiny Paul



I thank Almighty God and the GODependence team for giving me this opportunity. I'm also very glad to be a part of this team. Reading the Bible daily motivates me, and being part of this challenge has really encouraged me to stay engaged with the Word of God. I especially want to thank the GODependence team for that.

First, I want to share that I completed my Bible reading challenge in three months. Let me introduce myself: my name is Josephine Shiny Paul, and I live in Bangalore with my parents. I've been working for a U.S.-based company from home since 2018, which gave me the perfect opportunity to spend more time reading the Word of God.

I first came across the GODependence team through a friend who posted about the Bible reading challenge on her WhatsApp status. That's how I got interested and decided to take on the challenge myself. Although I'm a Christian, I hadn't made it a habit to read the Bible daily because of work and college commitments. Whenever my parents asked me to read, I'd pick a chapter from Psalms or Proverbs and go, but I had never read the entire Bible before joining the GODependence Bible reading challenge.

Before this challenge, whenever I started reading the Bible, I would begin with Genesis and stop by Exodus, unable to continue due to other distractions. This left me feeling demotivated and upset, as I was involved in church activities like choir, but the Word of God wasn't deeply rooted in me. The lockdown, however, gave me a great opportunity to read the Bible daily. Before taking the three-month challenge, I had also taken up a one-year challenge.

Each time I received the reading portion from the GODependence team, I would read the chapters twice—once in the morning and once in the evening—and meditate on them. Initially, I wasn't deeply engaged with the Word of God, and I didn't fully understand how much God loves us. Coming from a Christian family, I always heard, "God loves you," but I didn't grasp the depth of that love until I began reading the Bible every day.

Now, I spend two and a half hours each day—morning and evening—reading and meditating on the Word. I don't just read it;

I ask God to speak to me through each portion, and He does. My favorite books in the Bible are Isaiah, Psalms, and Proverbs. As I continued reading, I realized that God speaks to me through His Word every day, and my relationship with Him has grown much closer.

Reading the Bible is no longer just a morning or evening task; it has become an ongoing conversation with God. When I have doubts, I ask Him to explain things to me, just like talking to a friend. One of my favorite chapters is Psalm 8, which reminds me of how much God loves us. It's amazing to think that God is always mindful of us.

After completing the Bible reading challenge and posting my certificate on WhatsApp, many of my friends became curious and asked how I managed to finish the challenge while working. I explained that although work sometimes keeps me busy, I always find time to catch up on my Bible reading during my leisure time, especially on Sundays. Without God's grace, I wouldn't have been able to complete the Bible. It's all through His grace and the support of the GODependence team.

Reading the Bible has truly been life-changing. It's a treasure we often overlook in our search for happiness in worldly things, but real peace and joy are found in the Word of God. My relationship with God has deepened, and now I can pray with confidence, quoting scriptures and trusting in His promises.

I owe all of this to the GODependence team. Without their daily encouragement and structured portions, I doubt I would have completed the Bible reading, even during lockdown. Their support has been a great blessing to me, and I thank God for that.

CLICK THE FOLLOWING YOUTUBE LINKS TO SEE MORE TESTIMONIES

- **There is no age limit to reading the Bible.** -[BRO. JABEZ JEFFREY SMITH](#)
- **Each day was exciting & I had a love for the Word of God.** -[SIS. RUTH MARY EZRA](#)
- **The Bible is a Treasure; Real happiness is in reading God's Word.** -[SIS. JOSEPHINE SHINE PAUL](#)
- **Don't be Worried at Bad Times. Come Closer to the Word of God.** -[REV. DR. ARUN CHRISTOPHER](#)
- **The Bible is Speaking to Me and Lifting Me Up.** -[SIS. GYATI API](#)

## GODependence Events

### CHILDREN'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE (CBRC)



The Children's Bible reading challenge was started last June to nurture the children with God's scriptures and education. By the grace of the Lord, even little children are learning the verses, meditating, and growing in the Lord without any hindrances.

If your children are interested in participating, you can contact us on WhatsApp: +965 6596 2559.



### GODEPENDENCE TEAM GETTOGETHER



By God's abundant grace, we had our GODdependence ministry team members' family gathering on 28th July at Life Focus Society, Chennai. It was a great blessing to everyone who participated. We remembered the paths that the Lord had led the GODdependence ministry for the past four years, thanked the Lord, praised the Lord's name together, glorified God and worshipped. Apart from that, plans and decisions were made on what can be accomplished to help people understand and practice the Bible through GODdependence ministry in the coming years and how this can be a blessing for many people.

### BIBLE READING CHALLENGES (BRC)

You can plan to participate in one of our Bible Reading Challenges to read and complete the scriptures. You join our Bible Reading Challenges program. Then introduce it to your other friends and relatives to join so that they also can read through the Bible.

GODdependence ministry conducts Bible Reading Challenges in 10 languages (English, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali & Punjabi) in 6 types of durations (read the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months / 3 months / 4 months / 6 months or 1 year). On the first of every month, we start new Bible Reading groups through WhatsApp.

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









### BIBLE MEDITATION GROUPS (BMG)



Along with our regular Bible Reading Challenges (BRC), GODdependence started the Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) for regular meditation on the Holy Bible in August 2020. These groups were held for one year. Then, after a short break, BMG was held for one year starting in July 2022. Now, we are planning to start them again in January 2025. Detailed information about GODdependence BMG will appear in the next issue. Pray and participate in our BMGs.

#### **GODdependence Bible Reading Challenges**

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