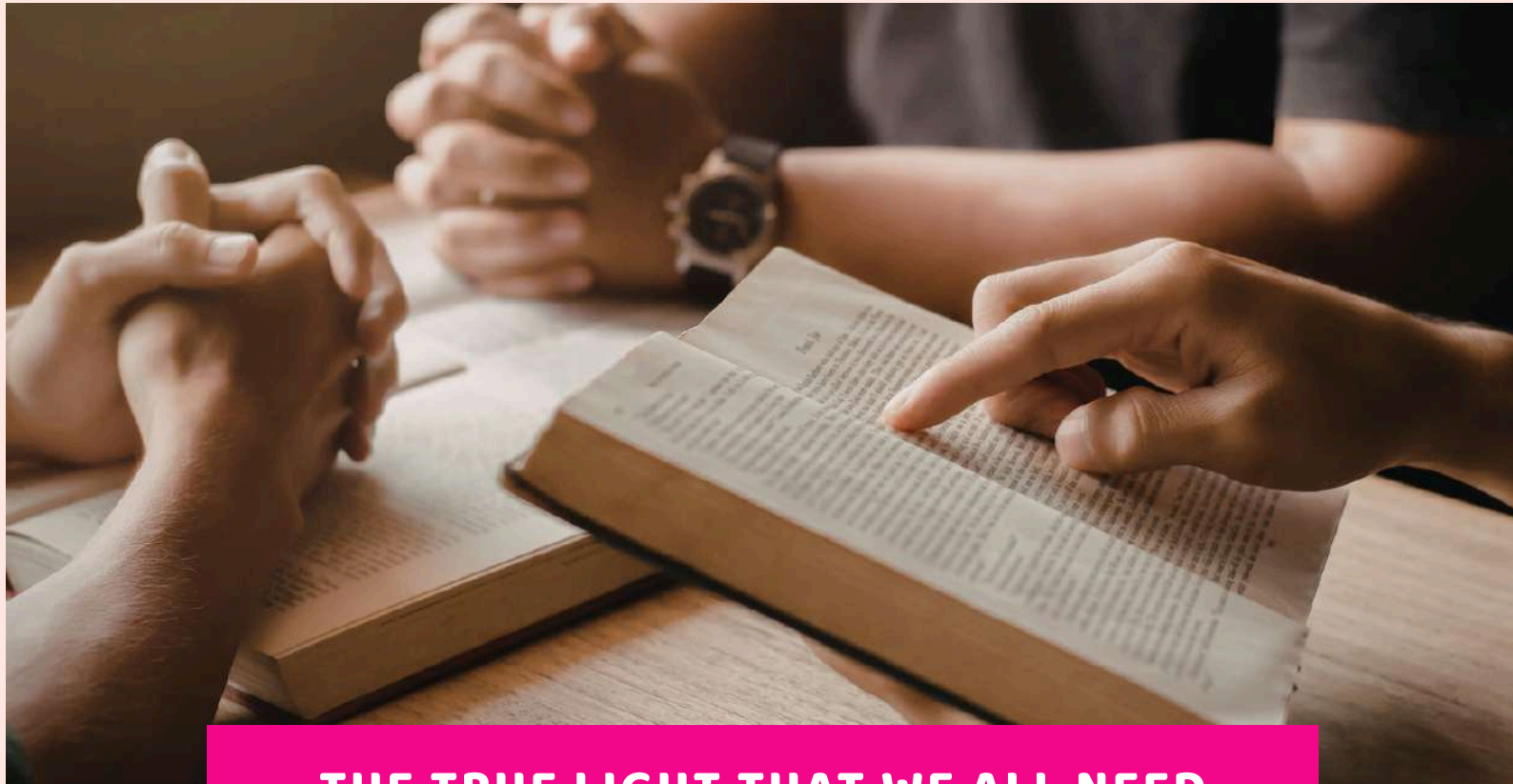


May | 2026



## THE TRUE LIGHT THAT WE ALL NEED

“That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.” - John 1:9

In India, light has deep meaning in everyday life. When there is a power cut in a village at night, people quickly search for a candle, kerosene lamp, or torchlight. During festivals, homes are decorated with lamps and lights because light represents joy, hope, and celebration. In the same way, the Bible tells us that Jesus is the true Light—not just a festival light that shines for one night or a small lamp that burns out—but an everlasting light that removes the darkness of sin.

.....

In John 1:9, When John says Jesus is the true Light, he means that Christ is the ultimate and genuine source of spiritual illumination. Unlike temporary lights—human wisdom, religious traditions, or moral philosophies—Jesus alone perfectly reveals God and shows humanity the way to salvation.

John 1:9 highlights the universal scope of Christ’s light: He “gives light to every man coming into the world.” This does not mean every person is automatically saved, but it teaches that the light of Christ reaches all people in some way. Through creation, conscience, and ultimately through the proclamation of the gospel, God gives people enough light to recognise truth and seek Him. However, as John writes, many rejected this Light because they loved darkness rather than light (John 3:19).

The coming of Jesus into the world was God’s answer to humanity’s deepest darkness. People search for meaning in wealth, power, religion, and knowledge, yet remain spiritually lost without Christ.

For believers today, John 1:9 is both a comfort and a challenge. It comforts us because Christ’s light is sufficient to overcome our own darkness. It challenges us because, like John the Baptist, we are called to bear witness to that Light so others may come to know Him.

Jesus is the true Light that can brighten the darkness of the human heart forever.

**- Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore.**

While other books inform, and some few reform, this one book transforms.

- A. T. Pierson



## Dear 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 extend my loving wishes to each one of you. I thank God for this opportunity. He has given us to connect with you once again through this newsletter. The results of the elections in five states of India held in April 2026 were announced, and new governments have been formed. Whether these newly formed governments are the ones we desired and expected or not, it is our duty as Christians to pray for the rulers and authorities. Romans 13:1-7 gives clear guidance to Christians regarding our responsibilities toward them.

### 1. Submission to the Authority appointed by God

Romans 13:1 commands, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities." The phrase "every soul" includes both believers and unbelievers. Since God appoints the authorities, resisting the government is, in a sense, resisting God's established order. Therefore, whether the new governments formed in May 2026 belong to the parties we preferred or not, they have come into power under God's sovereignty. We must accept this in faith. However, such submission also has its limits.

When authorities command something contrary to God's revealed will and the teachings of the Scriptures, our first duty is to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). For example, if the government commands participation in idol worship, false witness, or stopping the preaching of the Gospel, Christians may refuse human authority in obedience to God. Even then, such resistance must be done respectfully, peacefully, and in a manner that glorifies God.

### 2. Praying for and Honouring the Authorities

Romans 13:7 says, "... honour to whom honour." Honouring the newly elected Chief Ministers and State Ministers means respecting them as instruments used by God for governance. Even if we do not agree with their personal lifestyle or political ideology, we must still show respect to the office they hold. This also includes praying for them. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 reminds us, "Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority." If the government is not one we prefer, then we need to pray even more earnestly for them.

What should we pray for when praying for ministers and officials? We should pray that they govern with wisdom, uphold justice, maintain peace, protect the rights of minorities, and respect freedom of faith. We can also pray that the Lord would turn their hearts (Proverbs 21:1). Most importantly, our prayers must come from genuine concern and Christlike love. Such prayers bring peace to society and create opportunities for the Gospel.

### 3. Doing Good and Paying Taxes

Romans 13:3 says, “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil... Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.” This means that when a Christian lives as a model citizen in society, he receives not punishment from the government, but appreciation and protection. Therefore, we should take the lead in good works such as caring for the sick, helping the poor, running businesses honestly, and promoting peace in society. In doing so, it becomes a blessing to the government and opens the door for the Gospel.

“Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom

customs.” (Romans 13:7). Paying taxes is not merely a legal duty, it is also part of obedience to God. Through taxes, governments fulfill their responsibilities such as providing roads, hospitals, security, and education. Tax evasion, bribery, and black money are not fitting for a Christian. Instead, by honestly paying taxes, we contribute to the welfare of society and demonstrate that we are witnesses for Christ.

Whether or not the political party we preferred has come to power, our responsibility as Christians remains unchanged. Our highest duty is to glorify God through submission to authority, prayer for rulers, doing good, and paying taxes. In this way, we live both as citizens of God’s Kingdom and as good citizens on earth, becoming the salt and light of society.

We thank God for those who participated in and benefited from the Talk Show held on April 25 & 26 on the topic, \**“Meditating on the Bible: Why, When, and How?”*\* As a continuation of this, this month’s Talk show has also been designed to explain the various methods of Bible meditation. Please

pray that Bible Meditation groups may be restarted in the coming days subsequently.

On April 25, a 4-hour Telugu Bible Readathon was conducted successfully. This month, Bible Readathon events are planned in Tamil, English, and Telugu languages.

We hope that you will continue to read our monthly newsletters

regularly. We kindly request you to share your feedback and thoughts about the contents of these newsletters from time to time.

Please continue to pray for the GODependence ministries and introduce these services to others.

May the name of the Lord be glorified.

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



## Our Vision & Our Mission

### 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.

# Praise & Prayer Points - May 2026

## Praise God For:

1. Those who have completed their Bible reading during April 2026.
2. The GODependence Talk show titled “Meditating on the Bible: Why, When, and How” conducted successfully in Tamil and English on April 25 & 26, 2026, and for making it beneficial to many.
3. Let us thank the Lord for everyone who enthusiastically participated in the 4-hour Telugu Bible Readathon on April 25, 2026, and read the Scriptures.
4. Let us thank the Lord for the good marks our children obtained in the 12th standard public examinations.
5. Let us praise the Lord for helping the May 2026 Bible reading groups to begin despite certain obstacles, and for many people joining them and starting their Bible reading journey. 

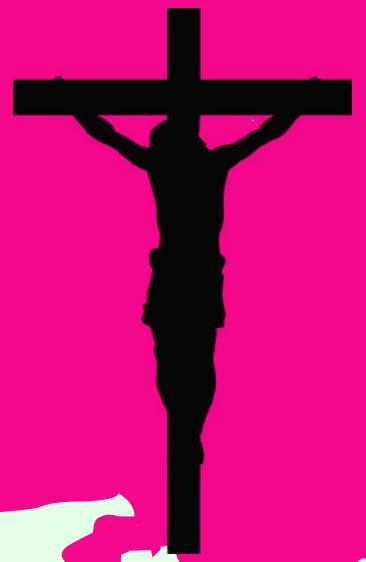
## Let's Pray For:

1. Those who have joined the May 2026 Bible reading groups will be able to complete their Bible reading successfully despite various challenges.
2. Let us pray for the 10th standard public examination results. Let us also pray that the students who passed the 12th standard examinations and are preparing to join higher education may get admission into the courses they desire and glorify the name of the Lord. During these vacation days, let us pray that children will spend time reading the Bible and use their days meaningfully.
3. The NEET re-examination has been scheduled for June 21, 2026. Let us pray that God will give students the wisdom and strength needed to write the exam well without becoming discouraged.
4. Let us pray that the GODependence Talk shows and online Bible Readathon events planned for May 2026 will take place in a way that glorifies the name of the Lord.
5. Some who are faithfully reading the Holy Bible through our Bible reading challenges are awaiting surgeries in the coming days, while others are recovering from surgeries and waiting for good health. Let us pray that each one of them may receive complete healing and glorify the Lord. 

Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.

- Psalms 119:140 

# The Slogans of Protestant Reformation



## Slogan 4: “Christ alone!” (*Solo Christo*)

Solo Christo! Christ alone! This slogan has at least 7 implications –

### (1) Christ is the only Way for salvation.

Jesus claimed, “I am THE way!” He also added, “No one comes to the Father except through Me!” (John 14:6). We are in a pluralistic society. The argument is, “What you believe is right, what I believe is also right!” This is not the Bible. This is not Christianity. The Apostles in the first century thundered, “There’s no name other than that of Jesus Christ under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). In the name of religious tolerance, we cannot move into religious compromise.

Look at these words of Christ: John 10:7-9, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am THE door ... If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.” He called the false prophets who came before Him “thieves and robbers.” So also the “false Christs” who come after Him (Matthew 24:23-25). The possibility of “even the very elect” getting deceived is a grim warning. Jesus foretold that the false Christs would deceive people through “great” miracles. Today, even without any miracle, folks are deceived! Apostle John’s prediction about “many” Antichrists should not be taken lightly. The spirit of Antichrist is already at work in the world today (1 John 2:18, 4:3).

## **(2) Christ is the only Mediator.**

The most clear passage that explains this truth is 1 Timothy 2:5,6, “There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all.” We also read in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, “God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ ... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself ... God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us.” Mother Mary, no doubt, was blessed among women, but she cannot pray for us. The only recorded instance in which she approached Jesus for someone’s need was in the wedding at Cana. See the instant and sharp reply of Jesus to her: “What does your concern have to do with Me?” (John 2:4). Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in My Name ... I will pray to the Father” (John 14:16). It’s not “whatever you ask in My mother’s name!” Praying to the saints is also outrightly unscriptural. We dare not attempt to add anything to the finished work of Christ on the Cross!

## **(3) Christ is the only Priest for us before God.**

“Because Jesus continues forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:24,25). Christ the High Priest has made “all” His children “priests” unto God (1 Peter 2:5,9). Priests to praise God! Priests to proclaim His message! We are priests to God both before and after the Return of Christ (Revelation 1:6,7, 5:10, 20:6).

The “Priesthood of all believers” was one of the chief doctrines emphasised during the 39 40 Reformation. Unfortunately, today it is only on paper and not in practice. The clergy-laity divide is anathema in the New Testament. There’s no laity, all of God’s people are clergy (Gr. klerios). Beware of going crazy after clerical titles! (Matthew 23:8-10). Sin confession is to be made to God and not to any priest. God alone can forgive sins (Mark 2:7,10, 1 John 1:7-9). Until the doctrine of the “Priesthood of all believers” is restored in practice to the Church, the Church will only be a club of the unemployed, and the world will remain unevangelised.


-It will be continued...

(Selected from Bro. R. Stanley’s book “Here I Stand”)

## Readers Voice

We warmly invite our readers to share your views, opinions, feedback, testimonies, and questions related to the contents of this newsletter. Your insights encourage us, enrich others, and help strengthen this growing community of lovers of the word of God.

Selected contributions will be featured each month in the **Readers’ Voice** section of the GODependence Newsletter. Let us grow together by learning from one another and by sharing how God’s Word is working in our lives.

Your voice matters to us. We look forward to hearing from you.  +91 95255 95265



# THE SICK WOMAN JESUS HEALED

No eligibility is needed to come to Jesus.



(Mark. 5:21-34)

When Jesus was going to the house of Jairus, a large crowd followed Him. There was a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately, her bleeding stopped.

At once, Jesus realised that power had gone out from him. He turned around and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” His disciples answered that people were crowding against him. But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman came trembling, fell at his feet, and told him the whole truth.

Jesus told her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

## What is special about this incident?

According to the law of Moses, a woman with discharge of blood should not touch anyone (Leviticus 15:25-27). But this woman believed in the benevolence of Jesus. She knew Jesus was God. It was with such conviction that she dared to touch the cloak of Jesus, defying the prevailing social taboo.

**If you feel unworthy to come to Jesus, take heart! Anyone can come to Him with faith and a repentant heart, and He will give them rest.** (Matthew 11:28).

– Bro. Peter A. R., Palakkad, Kerala.

We must study the Bible more. We must not only lay it up within us, but transfuse it through the whole texture of the soul. - Horatio Bonar

# Bible Reading Challenges

From 01 June 2026 onwards

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

Reading the Bible never makes a person feel tired but refreshes the mind of the reader. If you have not yet tasted the benefits of reading the bible regularly,

**GOD**ependence  
True freedom is being dependent on God

## BIBLE READING CHALLENGES

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



**01 June 2026 onwards**

- ✓ **Join one of our Bible reading plans**
- ✓ **Start reading at your own convenience**
- ✓ **Scan the QR code to Join**

For more information:  **GOD**ependence  
**+91 95255 95265**




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

[www.godependence.com/brc](http://www.godependence.com/brc)


When the people of God look into the Word of God and see the glory of God, the Spirit of God transforms them to be like the Son of God. - **Warren Wiersbe**

We, GODependence invite you to experience the joy of reading the bible by joining one of our reading plans that start on 01 June 2026.


**The following are some of the testimonies of our Bible reading challenge participants who successfully read through the Bible:**

 "Since October 2020, by God's grace, I have completed reading the entire Bible for the 55th time through these Challenges. All glory to God."

- Shunmugiah M

 "I have read the Holy Bible 14 times and absorbed its verses deeply. Reading it again and again helps me remember the verses without forgetting them. I am seventy years old now, and only my eyesight gives me some difficulty. Still, somehow I will finish reading it. Thank you to all your team members."

- Ranjitham Devakumari

 "This Bible Reading Challenge was very useful in helping me read the Bible regularly and systematically. It also increased my interest in reading the Bible more." - P. Christy Premalatha

**Its Special Features are:**

✦ Your choice of Challenge 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].

✦ Your choice of Language group from 10 Languages [English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali].

✦ Bible Reading Portion is given daily on the previous night.

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. - Psalms 119:11

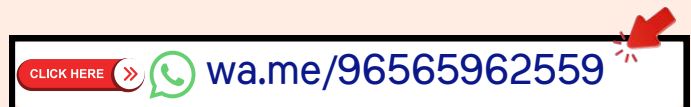
# Bible Reading Challenges

From 01 June 2026 onwards

- \* Daily Motivational Quotes or Clips on reading the Bible.
- \* Weekly, BiWeekly & Monthly Reviews to ensure progress.
- \* If you fall behind, jump back in! Our reading plan includes Catch-up days & Changing of Plans because we understand real life!
- \* User-friendly WhatsApp groups regulations.
- \* Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (\*Conditions apply).

🗨️ 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 +919525595265 by clicking this link: <https://wa.me/919525595265>

Thank you. God bless you. Amen



- **Team GODependence**

\*\*\* 🙌 *This message can be shared with all your family members, relatives, Christian friends, and Church members so that they also may get into the habit of reading the Bible in a regular manner!*

God's word is the way to God himself. If you miss the word of God, you will miss God.

Jesus is the word! - **Israelmore Ayivo**

# GODependence Bible Reading Challenges



## Bible Reading Challenges

*6 Plans in 10\* Languages*

### Reading Planner

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

#### 1 MONTH READING CHALLENGE

Every day 45 chapters

*Reading time*

2 hours 30 mins

#### 2 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day 22 chapters

*Reading time*

1 hour 30 mins

#### 3 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day 15 chapters

*Reading time*

60 minutes

You can choose a convenient plan

#### 4 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day  
11 chapters

*Reading time*

45 minutes

#### 6 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day  
7 or 8 chapters

*Reading time*

25 minutes

#### 1 YEAR READING CHALLENGE

Every day  
3 or 4 chapters

*Reading time*

15 minutes

**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.

Some people read their Bibles in Hebrew, some in Greek;  
I like to read mine in the Holy Ghost. - **Smith Wigglesworth**

# GODependence Bible Reading Challenges



## 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>

# Bible Crossword Puzzle-19

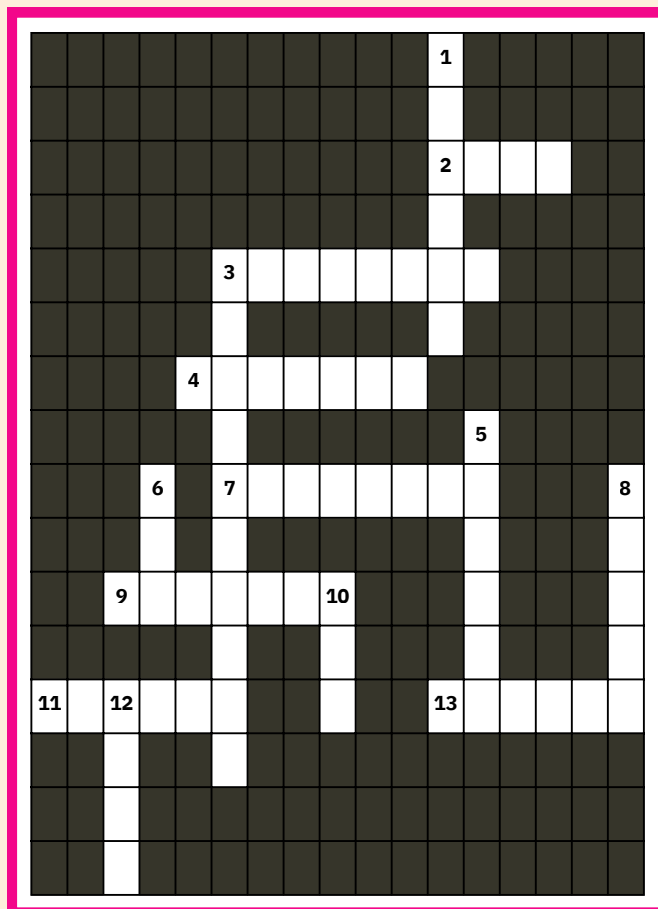
## Scripture Portion: James

### Across:

- 2 The prayer of faith will save the .....
- 3 You do not know what will happen .....
- 4 Be doers of the word, and not ..... only.
- 7 The testing of your faith produces .....
- 9 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and .....

### Down

- 1 If any of you lacks ....., let him ask of God.
- 3 Confess your ..... to one another.
- 5 The tongue is a small .....
- 6 Draw near to God and He will draw near to .....
- 8 Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my .....
- 10 Every good and perfect ..... is from above.
- 12 The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails .....
- 11 God resists the proud, but gives grace to the .....
- 13 Count it all joy when you fall into various .....



**Notes :** Send the answers with Bible references.

You can use the Bible to find the answer.



<https://forms.gle/RdiWS4BLAyLvRjnd9>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 25/05/2026. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter.

**The names of the people who participated in the Bible Crossword Puzzle - 18 & LET'S PLAY BIBLE GAME - 18 in last month's issue and sent in the correct answers.**

Regina Pandian

Thara Varghese

# The White Queen of Africa

## Biography of Mary Slessor

(1848-1915)

It was raining and along the lamp-lit street walked a sixteen-year-old girl. She was followed by a gang of rough-looking boys. Not until they surrounded her did she know it. The leader of the group carried a lump of lead fastened to a long cord and was swinging it round his head. He brought it nearer and nearer to her, saying, "We'll teach you to forget your Sunday School class and leave us alone."

Mary, the slim girl, stood her ground and said defiantly, "You can do what you like." Nearer and nearer came the swinging lead. But Mary stood boldly unmoved. She was doing God's work, and God would take care of her. She had been having Bible classes for the boys and girls in a slum area. The rougher boys were determined to wreck the class, and that was why they were facing her now.

When they saw that Mary was unafraid, their contempt turned to admiration, and the whole group went into her meeting. That was the turning point in the life of the ringleader.

### As a Girl

Mary Slessor, mentioned in the above incident, was born on December 2, 1848, in Scotland. Her parents were poor. When Mary was eleven, she had to work in a factory to help the family. She worked from six in the morning till six at night and then attended a night school. She carried a book to the factory and studied as she worked. She read her Bible also in this way, and God was very near to her, often speaking to her. She had already accepted Jesus as her Saviour through the exhortation of an old woman. She loved Jesus. Her favourite book was the Gospel of John. Often, Mary would be found reading late at night, forgetting even her sleep.

Her father was a drunkard, and life was not easy at home. Often her father would come home drunk and beat her mother. Sometimes Mary was turned out of doors to wander sobbing in the darkness and misery. However, all these trials made her strong for her later life and work.

Mary's mother was a good Christian. Often she would gather her children around her and tell them about Jesus and the black children of Africa who had never even heard of Jesus. It was from her mother that Mary derived her passion for missionary work. She would tell her mother eagerly in those days, "Mother, I want to be a missionary and teach black boys and girls."

During their playtime, the children would often play at preaching sermons. Mary taught imaginary black children the good news about Jesus. The children were so familiar with the details about Africa and were so enthusiastic that her eldest brother, Robert, decided that he would be a missionary to Africa. Her mother, too, hoped that Robert would become a missionary to Africa. This was not to be, however, for shortly after Mary was fourteen, her father and two of her brothers, including Robert, died. Now, the entire responsibility to support the family rested upon Mary. To do this, she had to live continuously a life of self denial. But through all these trials, Mary became braver and more patient than she had been before.

### **Called to Africa**

Mary Slessor served Christ with all her heart in her own hometown long before she became a missionary in Africa. We have to be faithful to the Lord in our own home and in our community before we can go out to witness for him elsewhere. Mary worked hard in the factory for ten hours and then spent her leisure hours and her Sundays doing whatever she could for her Lord. Thus, she did for fourteen years. But all the while, the vision of the African jungles and huts was before her.

One day, the sad news reached Scotland that David Livingstone, who was a great missionary to Africa, had died in Africa. Now the question was, "Who will go to take

his place?" This challenge confirmed Mary's decision to go to Africa. Mary told her mother of this call to Africa. Her mother was willing. Mary immediately wrote to the mission board, and word came that she was accepted as a missionary to Calabar, Africa.

It was on a fine morning in England, 1876, that Mary Slessor waved goodbye to her friends from the deck of a steamer and started on her voyage. There were many casks of whiskey on the ship being sent to Africa. Mary looked at them and exclaimed, "Scores of casks of whiskey and only one missionary!" During the voyage, a friend on board the ship told her much about Africa. He told her how Africa was covered with thick bush and forest, how swift rivers flowed out of mountains never seen by white men, and how sudden hurricanes uprooted trees and swept away huts. He told her of wild animals—huge hippopotami and crocodiles in the streams, elephants, leopards, and snakes in the forests.

### **In Africa**

Mary arrived at Duke Town, a coastal town, and worked here for four years, learning the language and getting to know the people. She got acquainted with the African boys and girls. She played with them and soon won their friendship. But her heart longed to go into the interior of Africa, where no one had gone before, to tell the people of Christ.

### **The Dark Continent**

Mary soon realised why Africa had been called 'The Dark Continent.' Everywhere in this land were found sin, cruelty, and filth. The slave trade was carried on. Men, women, and children were caught without any consideration and sold as slaves to be treated worse than animals. People always lived in fear of evil spirits, which they thought inhabited every tree and pool. Most of the different tribes spent their time fighting each other, drinking, and dancing. Some of them were even cannibals. They often shed the blood of animals to please their gods. **--To be continued--**

**[From "Servants of the Cross" by Theodore Williams, IEM Outreach Publications]**



## DID YOU KNOW?

### What Is the Secret of Life on Earth?

#### (Part 1 – The Moon)

The Moon helps stabilise Earth's tilt at about 23.5°. Without the Moon, the tilt could vary widely, leading to extreme and unpredictable seasons. The Moon also slows Earth's rotation. Without it, the Earth would rotate faster, making days much shorter—possibly 6 to 8 hours—making the lives of plants, animals, and humans impossible.

What caused the Moon to exist and be positioned so precisely that life can thrive on Earth? Everyone without a bias would say that it cannot happen by mere chance. What, then, is the answer?

The Bible says, **"He made the moon to mark the seasons..."** (Psalm 104:19, NIV). It also declares, **"He who created the heavens, He is God... He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited..."** (Isaiah 45:18, NIV). God arranged all the factors so that life could sustain on the Earth.

While science continues to explore how life is sustained on Earth, the Bible points to a clear and purposeful Creator.

**If you are interested in exploring these mysteries further, please read the Bible to discover more about the mysteries of life.**



#### Did you know?

##### "The Shortest Term"

Shamgar is one of the briefest yet most powerful judges mentioned in the Bible. In just one verse, it is recorded that he saved Israel by killing 600 Philistines using nothing but an oxgoad—a long wooden tool used for driving livestock (Judges 3:31).

#### Did you know?

##### "The Bramble King"

Abimelech, the son of Gideon, was not a judge appointed by God but a self-proclaimed king. He infamously killed 70 of his brothers on a single stone to seize power, eventually meeting his end when a woman dropped a millstone on his head from a tower (Judges 9:1-5, 53).



# GODependence Social Media sites

## GODependence WhatsApp Channel

This is the Official whatsapp channel of GODependence in English...

Kindly keep following this channel for the Daily Quotes in English and the regular updates on Bible Reading Challenges from GODependence. Thank you.




 <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaCtY5W72WTqIqnZKW28>



## Contact Numbers for the Bible Reading Challenges:

GODependence is using the following contact numbers for Bible Reading Challenges in various languages.

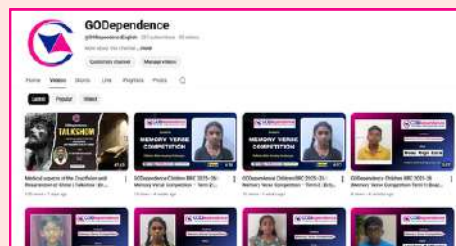
You can contact the appropriate number to enroll into a particular language Bible Reading Challenge groups.

-  Tamil - +965 6596 2559
-  English - +91 95255 95265
-  Other Languages - +91 99628 34944

[Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali]

## GODependence Youtube Channel

GODependence Youtube Channel has reached 225 Subscribers and 83 Videos.



 <https://www.youtube.com/@godependenceenglish>



That's the way to come to the Word of God. Read it as though it were His love letter to you. - Howard G. Hendricks

# GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on**

**31 April 2026**



**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**  
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 April 2026

**1 Month Bible Reading Challenge**

- John Samuel Raj K
- K. Lediakingsly
- R Padmavathi
- Shunmugiah. M
- M John Flora
- Jessica Amirtharaj
- Rajasingh

*Congratulations!*

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Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time

**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**  
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 April 2026

**2 Months Bible Reading Challenge**

- Hepzibah Robert
- P.Jamunarani
- P.Pavithra
- R Rani

*Congratulations!*

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Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time

**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**  
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 April 2026

**3 Months Bible Reading Challenge**

**Mrs.Esther Shanthini Raju**  
**R.Rajendran**

*Congratulations!*

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**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**  
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 April 2026

**4 Months Bible Reading Challenge**

- Jacintha Sekar
- Moses
- P. Catherina Vasanthalin
- Pauline Mariasundaram
- Sangeetha k
- J. John Raj Kumar
- Jean Faith
- P. Christy Premalatha
- A.Sheeba faith rose
- Shanthi D
- R C VIMAL CHANDER
- R.AMALI ROSI
- RANJITHAM DEVAKUMARI
- Rev Dr ARUN CHRISTOPHER
- Shanthi D
- T. Christina Selvarani
- T. Prema
- V. Jemima Johnson
- Helen Sampson

*Congratulations!*

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**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**  
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 April 2026

**6 Months Bible Reading Challenge**

- Indra jones
- M.Inbhanadhan
- Merlin Solomon
- Rev Dr ARUN CHRISTOPHER
- Gifta Arumainayagam
- Mary Abraham
- R. Kiruba jansi mary
- S. Shanthisolomon
- Vijayalakshmi

*Congratulations!*

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**  
 Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 April 2026

**1 Year Bible Reading Challenge**

- 1.Dasari Prasanthi
- 2.Leo A Kadhirvel
- 3.Sumati Singh
- 4.ANITA BEULAH SUGANTHI D
- 5.G.Annie grace caroline
- 6.S Angeline Vasantha Kumari
- 7.T. Kethsiyal neethimani
- 8.T. Premala Kumari
- 9.Jessica Amirtharaj
- 10.SMITA JOHN
- 11.Elizabeth Raj
- 12.Asha Joseph

*Congratulations!*

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures ... - I Corinthians 15:3-4

# LET'S PLAY BIBLE GAME - 19

From the given pictures find the verses from

Scripture Portion: James



**Notes :** Send the answers with Bible references.  
You can use the Bible (NKJV) to find the answer.

1



2



3



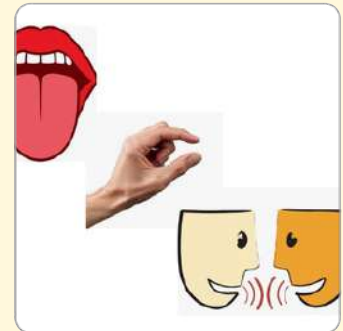
4



5



6



7



8



9



10



<https://forms.gle/ZsSPX9VgHqaRTEcK8>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 25/05/2026.

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

If we want revivals, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God. - Charles  
Spurgeon

## Answers

### Last month let's play Bible game-18 & Bible Crossword Puzzle -18

#### correct answers

#### Bible Crossword Puzzle - 18

##### Across:

- 6 Elementary (Hebrews 6:1)
- 7 Veil (Hebrews 10:20)
- 8 Sacrifice (Hebrews 9:26)
- 9 Sword (Hebrews 4:12)
- 10 Sinai (Hebrews 12:18)
- 12 Laughter (Hebrews 12:9)
- 13 Fire (Hebrews 12:29)
- 14 Abel (Hebrews 11:4)
- 15 Faith (Hebrews 11:1)

##### Down:

- 1 City (Hebrews 11:10)
- 2 Angels (Hebrews 1:4)
- 3 Race (Hebrews 12:1)
- 4 Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1)
- 5 Priest (Hebrews 4:14)
- 11 Rest (Hebrews 4:9)

#### Let's play Bible game-18

- 1) Hebrews: 1:14
- 2) Hebrews: 2:16
- 3) Hebrews: 4:12
- 4) Hebrews: 5:12
- 5) Hebrews: 6:10
- 6) Hebrews: 7:25
- 7) Hebrews: 9:27
- 8) Hebrews: 11:1
- 9) Hebrews: 12:1
- 10) Hebrews: 13:2

### Editorial Team

- Pethuru Devadason
- Arputharaj Samuel
- J.I.A. Easter Raj
- Peter A R
- D. Densingh
- Darwin Nesakumar A
- Shoba Daniel
- Josephine Shiny Paul
- Catherine Suji

When you decide to spend time with God in prayer and studying His word, patience and energy are paramount here as well. - **Pauline Creeden**

# Bible Book Overview - James

## JAMES

**Time of Writing:** A.D. 67 – A.D. 69  
**Time of Events:** A.D. 49

**Author of the Book:** James  
**Type of Book:** Letter

### Introduction to the Book

- This letter is written to the twelve tribes of Israel living scattered throughout the world. Even though they are Jewish Christians, the teachings provided in this building (letter) apply equally to Jewish Christians and Christians of other ethnicities. Although this letter is advice for practical Christian living, it possesses the nature of Old Testament wisdom books.

### Context and Purpose

- This letter is written to the twelve tribes of Israel living scattered throughout the world. Even though they are Jewish Christians, the teachings provided in this building (letter) apply equally to Jewish Christians and Christians of other ethnicities. Although this letter is advice for practical Christian living, it possesses the nature of Old Testament wisdom books.

### Key Verses

James 1:2-3, James 1:19, James 2:17-18, James 3:5, James 5:16

### Summary of the Book

- The main idea of this book is that a Christian should complete their daily duties without error. True Christian life includes self-denial and holy living (1:1-27). Faith and love for others must be shown in actions. Faith without action is dead faith (2:1-26). Controlling the tongue and a passion for a peaceful life transform a person into someone wise and pure (3:1-18). At the end of this letter, an exhortation is given to everyone (4-5). The Book of James highlights the walk of faith through True Religion (1:1-27), True Faith (2:1-3:12), and True Wisdom (3:13-5:20). This book is a significant parallel to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7. James begins in his first chapter by describing the overall characteristics of the walk of faith. In the beginning of chapters 2 and 3, he explains faith in action. Later, he compares the difference between worldly wisdom and divine wisdom, asking us to turn away from evil and draw closer to God. James gives a stern condemnation to the rich who hoard. Finally, he concludes by encouraging believers to be patient in suffering, to pray, to care for one another, and to strengthen our faith through fellowship.

### Jesus Christ in the Book

- The Book of James is the ultimate explanation of the relationship between faith in Jesus and actions. James wrote to Jewish Christians rooted in the Law of Moses and its practices. He spent considerable time explaining the hard truth that no one is justified by the works of the law (Gal 2:16). He declares to them that even if they try their best to follow various laws and rituals, doing so is impossible;

and breaking even the smallest part of the law makes them guilty of everything (James 2:10)—just as breaking one part of an object breaks the whole. Those who believe in Jesus show their faith through actions.

### Practical Application

- In the Book of James, we see a challenge to the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ: "Don't just speak the talk, walk the walk" (literally: "Don't just speak, show by walking/behaving"). Since James put forward 60 duties in 108 verses, many Christians found this letter challenging. He focuses on the truths of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount and urges us to act according to what He taught. This letter also addresses the idea that a person might become a Christian but still continue to live in sin and show no fruit of righteousness. James declares that "such faith"-the "faith" mentioned regarding demons who "believe and tremble" (James 2:19)-cannot save them, because we were created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Eph 2:10). We do not get salvation because of good works; rather, good works are the result of salvation.

### Structure of the Book

1. Introduction (Greeting): 1:1
2. Trials: 1:2 - 18
3. Exhortations and Warnings: 1:19 - 5:20

# The History of the Kannada Bible

(Pastor. Hoysala Gowda)



Kannada Bible  
Indian Version

*[This is the transcription of the Talk delivered by Pastor. Hoysala Gowda in the GODependence Talk show on the History and Impact of the Kananda Bible on 07 December 2025]*

## Introduction and Personal Testimony

I praise God for this opportunity. This is a good occasion and a very important piece of information to share with people. I am thankful to God for this. We usually give many sermons and share the Gospel, but we haven't told our own congregations how the Bible came to be in our language. I praise God for this platform, GODependence, which allows me to talk about the history and impact of the Kannada Bible.

My name is Hoysala Gowda. I was born and raised in a village and was serving there. While I was in prison in Mandya due to a murder case, the Gospel reached the prison. The gospel first came to Mandya prison in English. From English, it was translated into Tamil. And from Tamil, it was translated into Kannada. Back in 1998, a lady missionary named Jerry Tuck from America would speak in English, Padma Mudaliar would translate from English to Tamil, and another pastor named S.D. Simon would translate from Tamil to Kannada. Today, by God's grace, we have the opportunity to hear the Gospel in our own languages. In this context, let us spend some time introducing how the Kannada Bible reached our hands.

## The Work of William Carey and Serampore Missionaries

The first attempt to translate the Bible into Kannada was made by the **Serampore Missionaries**, primarily led by **William Carey**. For William Carey to come to our country as a missionary was not an easy task. He had a wife and four children. In the 1800s, there were no flights, they had to travel by ship for six months. During that journey, his youngest child passed away. There were no freezers to keep the body until they reached India, and the ship would not return just for them.

They had to pray and perform the last rites by committing the child to the sea. After arriving in Kolkata, the family struggled with the change in food and environment. Two hundred years ago, the food situation was very difficult. Because they could not adjust to the diet, his remaining three children also passed away. Eventually, his wife suffered a mental breakdown. Despite these hardships, Carey did not give up on his service. When his organisation stopped sending him funds, he began sewing shoes to earn a living. He later worked in an indigo factory and started tutoring children in English.

Through this, he learned many languages, including Hindi, Marathi, and Bengali. He was joined by others like William Ward and Joshua Marshman. They began the work of translating the scriptures into various Indian languages. Carey eventually learned to read and write about 18 Indian languages and translated portions of the Bible into them, including Kannada. A major setback occurred when his wife, in her mental instability, set fire to the printing press and the completed translations. I mention this to show that the Bible in our language did not come easily, it involved great struggle and sacrifice.”

### **John Hands and the Bellary Mission**

Later, **John Hands** from the London Missionary Society arrived in Bellary. Along with William Reeve, they worked in Bellary, Mysore, and Bangalore. By 1820, the translation of the **New Testament into Kannada** was completed and published. They formed a large committee to ensure there were no errors in spelling or translation. Sometimes, 10 to 20 people would check a single line or word before finalising it for print, which is why it took many years.

John Hands initially wanted to establish the printing press in **Srirangapatna** because the Portuguese, who were more supportive of missions than the British at the time, were there. However, because of the wars between the Mysore rulers and **Tipu Sultan**, who was ruling Srirangapatna, the permission was denied. Consequently, the press was shifted to Bellary in North Karnataka, where the translation of both the Old and New Testaments was completed.

By 1810–1819, missionaries had established seven schools in Bellary and Mysore, educating about 300 children each. In these schools, they taught the scriptures alongside basic literacy.”

Kannada Language History and Modern Versions. Historically, King Amoghavarsha Nrupatunga is credited with the Halmidi inscription and establishing the foundation of the Kannada language. Over time, the language evolved through the eras of the Cholas, Vijayanagara kings like Krishnadevaraya, and the Hoysalas. While the early language was Old Kannada, it was modernised during the time of Kempe Gowda and the Mysore Wodeyars.

The missionaries did not just print Bibles, they helped develop Kannada newspapers, magazines, and office documents like bill books and agendas. Regarding the various versions of the Kannada Bible today, many 'easy' versions exist, but they often lead to confusion or loss of original meaning. The original translation by the Bible Society of India (BSI) remains the most preferred and widely used version today. Even if the words seem difficult, learning them helps in correctly understanding the scriptures.”

### **Q&A and Closing Remarks**

When asked why fewer people read the Bible today, he replied, "I believe it is because congregations and families are not giving it enough importance." We tell children they have six subjects in school, but the Bible should be their 'seventh subject'. We must explain the benefits of reading it. Another participant, Pastor Isaac, noted that because Bibles are often given for free now, people don't value them as much as when they had to pay for them.

The program concluded with a reminder that the 'GODependence' ministry offers Bible reading challenges in 10 languages with various timelines. Finally, Pastor Murali Mark from Malavalli offered a closing prayer, thanking God for the sacrifices of the early missionaries and asking for a revival of the Word in Karnataka.”

(If you have any questions regarding the Kannada Bible translation, Please send them. The author will respond in the next month's issue.)

## Testimony - Sis. Sneha ★★★★★

### **Your Name, Place, Family, Christian Background & Upbringing:**

Praise the Lord. My name is Sneha, and I am from Virudhu Nagar, Tamil Nadu. I was brought up in a Christian family, and my parents are involved in ministry. From childhood, the Word of God was very familiar to us, and Bible reading was strongly encouraged in our home. By God's grace, at the age of 8, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour.

### **How many times have you read the entire Bible so far? How many of them were through the GODependence program?**

Although I used to read the Bible regularly, I was never able to complete reading the entire Bible within a year or a few months. It would usually take several years for me to finish it. However, through the GODependence program, by God's grace, I have now completed reading the Bible cover to cover for the past two years, and this is my third year of following the one-year Bible reading plan.

### **How did the GODependence program help you develop an interest in Bible reading?**

I had a strong desire to complete reading the Bible within one year, and that is when I came to know about the GODependence program. When I heard about their Bible reading plan, I truly felt that the Lord was leading me to join the WhatsApp group and follow the schedule.

The program helped me not only to read the Bible consistently but also to meditate on God's Word deeply. Every chapter spoke personally to me. Many times, the scriptures matched exactly with my life situations or the needs of the people we were praying for and ministering to.

Every day, I eagerly looked forward to the Bible reading portions, expecting what God would speak to me through His Word. The daily Bible verses, prayer points, and devotionals shared by the team became a great blessing to me and many others around me. Even the short and specific prayer points helped me instantly turn them into prayers wherever I was.

The longer you read the Bible, the more you will like it; it will grow sweeter and sweeter. - William Romaine

The magazines, quizzes, and activities shared by the team were also very useful, especially for my children and friends, who were encouraged and strengthened spiritually through them.

### **Changes in your life now:**

Through this Bible reading journey, my spiritual life has grown tremendously. I have become more consistent in reading God's Word and more sensitive to His guidance in my daily life. I clearly experience God speaking, directing, and instructing me through the scriptures.

One of the greatest blessings is that my children were also inspired to read the Bible daily. By God's grace, my husband and I are blessed with three children aged 11, 9, and 5, and all of them read the Bible regularly. My second son even completed reading the entire Bible in one year in 2025. This has been a great encouragement and testimony for our family.

### **Finally, what would you like to say in a few lines?**

I sincerely thank the GODependence team for their dedication and faithful efforts in spreading the Word of God. This ministry has truly impacted my life and the lives of my children. I strongly recommend the GODependence Bible reading plans, especially to youth and students. I believe God will continue to use this ministry to help people from all generations and walks of life grow in His Word.

May God bless the entire team abundantly as they continue to spread the gospel across the world. Praise the Lord. Thank you.

**Testimony - Sis. Marsna Sheebarani** ★★★★★

### **Your Name, Place, Family, Christian Background & Upbringing:**

Greetings to everyone. My name is Marsna Sheebarani. I was born and raised in a Roman Catholic family. From childhood, I grew up following traditional Christian practices. In the beginning, I did not have a deep understanding of the Bible. Later, when I moved to Chennai for work, God touched my life and helped me realize the importance of reading the Scriptures.

The Bible is very clear that God put you here on Earth to do two things:  
to learn to love God and to learn to love other people. - Rick Warren

## **How many times have you read the entire Bible so far? How many times through the GODependence challenges?**

So far, I have read the entire Bible two times. The first time, I completed it through a three-month program at Comfort Church in Coimbatore. The second time, I completed the entire Bible in six months through the GODependence challenges.

## **How did you become interested in reading the Bible through the GODependence challenges?**

I came to know about the GODependence plans through my friend. Through this program, I was able to read the Bible deeply and meditatively, rather than reading it in a hurried manner. God gave me the grace to understand the truths found in each verse. Because of this, a greater desire grew within me to know the Bible more deeply.

## **Changes that have taken place in your life now:**

After I started reading the Bible, great changes took place in my life. Earlier, I used to think, "Whatever I do is right." But after reading the Scriptures, I learned that I must live according to God's will. Peace, clarity, and obedience increased in my life. I also learned to make decisions based on the Word of God. In addition, God led me to receive believer's baptism by immersion.

## **How did the GODependence group's method help you?**

The GODependence group's method was very helpful to me. This program helped me to read the Bible slowly and deeply. It trained me to read and meditate on the Scriptures regularly every day. It also helped me experience God speaking to me through His Word. Through this, my spiritual life has grown.

## **Finally, what would you like to say in a few lines?**

The Bible is not just a book, it is the living Word of God that transforms our lives. Only when we read the Scriptures can we truly know God. I lovingly encourage everyone to read the Bible daily and live according to God's will. Glory be to God alone. Thank you.

Ultimately, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. - **Kay Arthur**

# Children Bible Reading Challenges 2025-26

## Memory Verse Competition - Term 3

Children's Bible Reading Challenges for the Academic Year 2025-26 has come to end by the end of February 2026. The Videos of the Memory Verses Competitions of the Term 3 have been uploaded now in our Youtube Channel.



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**R Lakeesha**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**Jeshurun Roy Daniel**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**C V Joanna Jessica**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**J. J. Jerolin Esther Margaret**



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**James santhosh**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**M. Jerson Jebaraj**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**U. Miraclin Jessy**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**Ajoy steven**



[CLICK HERE >>](#)

**Alvina Terrin**

## Children's Bible Reading Challenges for the Academic Year 2026-2027

GODependence has conducted Children's Bible Reading Challenges for the past 3 Academic years. This will be initiated again from 08 June 2026 Monday for the new academic year 2026-27.

*More details will be shared in the groups and in the next newsletter.*

# GODependence Events

1

## Bible Readathons in May 2026



Bible Readathon in Telugu was held on 25 April 2026, Saturday from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM IST with active involvement of volunteers.

For this month also, there will a Bible Readathon in Telugu on 30 April 2026, Saturday from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Indian Standard Time).

We invite those who have good internet connectivity and are able to read the Bible fluently in Telugu to participate in this event.



There will be Bible Readathons in Tamil and English also in the month of May 2026. Bible Readathons in Tamil on 28 May 2026, Thursday from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM IST. Bible Readathons in English will be on 26 May 2026, Tuesday from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM IST.

Those who have good internet connectivity and are able to read the Bible fluently in in the respective languages can participate in these events.



2

## GODependence Talkshow - May 2026

**Topic: Methods on Metitating the Word of God**



(An insightful and interactive Panel Discussion to explore the various methods of Meditating the Word of God. Participants will understand the practical ways of meditating the Word of God so that they can join one of the Bible Meditation Groups (BMGs) and continue the practice.)

**Date: 24 May 2026 Sunday 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm IST**

**Speakers: GODependence Team**


### Bible Meditation Groups (BMG)

Subsequent to these Talk shows those who are willing to join the Bible Meditation groups will be enrolled. Further details will be shared in the Bible Reading Challenges groups and in the next month's Newsletter.

FOLLOW US!

**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**

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**CONTACT:**  
**GODependence**  
 105 Y/1A, Nalla Samarian Nagar,  
 Vallioor - 627 117,  
 Tamilnadu, India