

Reading the Bible in One Week at Hendersonville Presbyterian Church

Beginning on Monday April 24 and ending on Saturday April 29, Hendersonville Presbyterian Church plus members of the Hendersonville Community who wish to participate, will read the entire Bible in one week from *"In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1) to *"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people"* (Revelation 22:20, 21).

Many people in our congregation and community have read the Bible in 90 days. "How", you are probably wondering, "can we read the Bible in one week?"

There are 757,439 words in the English Standard version (ESV) translation of the Bible. We are going to read every word in **30-minute shifts** from:

- Monday, April 24 through Friday, April 28 from 8 AM to 10 PM, and
- Saturday, April 29, 8 AM until 6 PM or until we have read the entire Bible.

The congregation will be asked to sign up for *one or more 30-minute slots* to stand at the lectern in the sanctuary and read the Bible we will provide. Standing that long might be difficult for some, so a comfortable chair will be available next to the lectern for those who prefer to sit. You could also split your shift with another person, so you only read 15 minutes or so.

Assuming the average person reads about 10,000 words an hour, we can read the entire Bible in about 75 hours. To be safe, we are allowing 80 hours. That means we need 160 readers if each member of our congregation reads one time. Some of you might want to read more than once during the week.

During the entire time the reading is taking place there will be a person in the sanctuary with you to assist you in any way you need.

For some of you this will be strange. You will be reading the Word of God with almost no one listening. There may be people who drop by during the day just to hear to God's Word spoken aloud. But more importantly, God will be there. He is our primary audience.

Many of the names in some parts of Scripture are difficult to pronounce. Don't let that deter you from reading the Bible. Do your best to pronounce them. Your audience is God; He understands.

Why are we doing this?

We are doing this to honor God and thank Him for His powerful Word. God's Word is important to Him. The Psalmist writes, *"For you have exalted above all things Your Name and Your Word"* (Psalm 138: 2 NIV)

"For the word of God is living and powerful" (Hebrews 4: 12 NKJV).

We are doing this to release the power of God's Word over our church, city, county, state, and nation. America needs Jesus and His Word.

Isaiah wrote, *"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55: 11 NIV).

Finally, we want to unite HPC with a single purpose and effort.

Your Discipleship Ministry and Session are excited about this opportunity to draw closer to God. Only you can make reading the Bible in one week possible.