

Interview Questions for *A Woman's Guide to Reading the Bible in a Year*

1. Where did the idea for this book begin?

In 2000, I was invited to join a new women's group that would read through the Bible in a year "to get to know God."

2. Why did you want to write this book?

I saw so much growth in myself and others in the group—I wanted other women to have the same great experience. And with my background in publishing, I saw a need—there were no resources like what I envisioned.

3. Describe the book. What makes it unique?

It's short. There are just two pages for each week: list of readings, brief background, and space to note what stands out for you as you read plus any questions you have. There are no study questions, there's no particular doctrinal stance, and the reading plan alternates OT and NT books.

4. Why is alternating OT and NT books a good idea?

It avoids spending 9 months in the OT (what it takes to read through the OT at 3 chapters per day). Getting back to NT books frequently keeps momentum going. We start making connections between the OT and NT early in the reading.

5. Do you advocate daily Bible reading? Is it OK to skip some days and catch up later?

Daily time with God is always a good goal and this can help establish that habit, but there's no one way to take this journey. Do what works. Read twice a week, catch up on weekends, even listen rather than read. Sometimes if you can't catch up, just jump back in and keep going.

6. How does a group use this book as a study guide? There's no homework, no discussion questions.

Focus for the year is getting to know God—that's the lens to read through and respond to. We start discussion time with "What stood out this week?" Be comfortable with some silence; the next topic will come up!

8. Can a woman use the book on her own if she's not in a group?

Definitely!

9. What are the benefits of reading through the Bible in a year?

To see the whole story, beginning to end, and to realize that the Bible is an understandable book. Women have found their desire to read the Word increases—they want to read through again or dig deeper in some area. We see the goodness of God, and we are changed.

10. What would you say to someone who wants to read through the Bible but has tried and failed?

I would encourage her to try again with a support system, a group or a friend. And I'd say "Don't feel you must do it perfectly ... any time spent with the Word has benefits."

11. Why do you believe it's so important for women to be in the Word?

We get to know people by spending time with them, listening to them—it's no different with God except we listen first of all to what he's said in the Bible. When we know the Word, we can live wisely, be transformed as our minds are renewed with his truth, and learn to be discerning, which is so important now when much of Scripture is being attacked, from inside as well as outside the church.