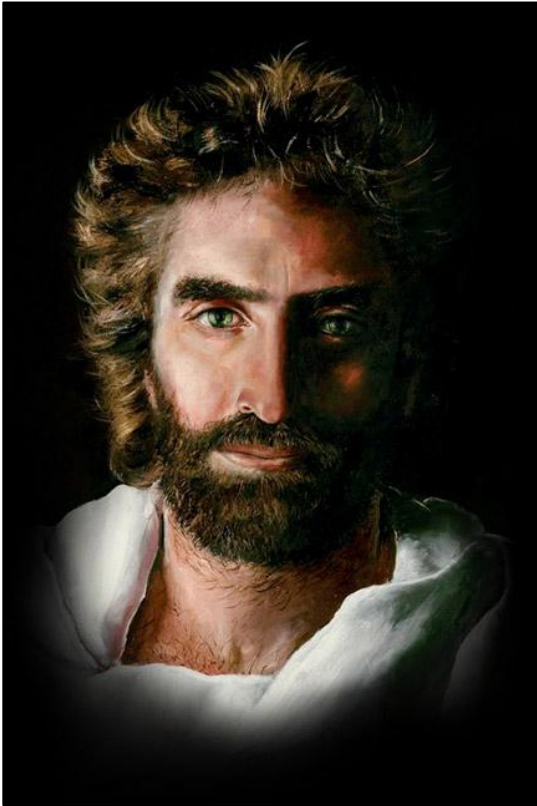


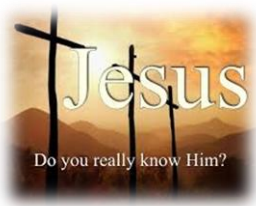
Prepare yourself for a journey like no other.....

Walking with Jesus in 2014

Getting to KNOW Him in an Intimate Way



Growing DEEP in the Gospels



Prepare yourself for a journey like no other.....
a *Journal Journey* through the Gospels

I am proud of you for accepting this challenge to read & journal through the Gospels in 2014. ***You will be blessed!***

For many of you this commitment to read regularly and consistently for a year may be your first trip, for others, this is another opportunity to GO DEEP in a specific area of God's Word-the Gospels.

In this format, you will read five days a week (Monday through Friday) and to record in a journal what you discover as you read. Pace yourself as the year begins. This adventure probably is a new commitment that you have added to your calendar. Attempt to set a time and place when you will read. Remember, it might take you 3-4 weeks to get into consistent reading habit. **But once you do, you will finish strong.**

In order to get the most out of your reading, you are encouraged to write as you read. You will notice that **you are the one** that will determine ***when you journal***. I have learned from experience, that unless one is a "seasoned journaler" you may journal every three days. If you do more, you will just need to add some pages. I encourage you to challenge yourself to journal. ***It is a way God will speak to you.***

I encourage you to invite a "Bible Buddy" to join you as you undertake this adventure. Someone with whom you can share questions, insights and a relationship in which you each can be encouraged and held accountable as you read. Possibly your wife, an older child or a "Tonto" so that you won't be the *Lone Reader!*

On this journey with you!!

Bob Schuemann

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Why Study the Gospels in 2014?

I believe as a Christian matures it is our desire to KNOW Jesus. Not to know ABOUT Jesus, but to KNOW Him intimately. The whole Bible points to Jesus, but the Gospels are the four books that tell us about Jesus-what he did-who he knew-where he went. So in my mind if I want to KNOW Jesus I need to study deeply his life, his friends, and His teaching.

Carl Medearis shares in his book: **Speaking of Jesus...**What does it mean to know Jesus?

We know Him from what we read about Him.

So reading the Gospels is where I start in getting to know Jesus. We speak of what we know. Know Jesus and you will speak Jesus.

In 2014, I encourage you to go deeper into the Gospels that ever before. You will read through the Gospels twice: once in a traditional format and the second chronological. Then you will finish 2014 reading Acts.

Why chronological? This arranges the events in order of which they occurred. This format might possibly give you a different insight into Jesus as you see the Gospels unfold together.

As you read and journal—keep in mind:*

Purpose of the Gospels: To give an accurate record of Christ's birth, lifestyle, teaching, death and resurrection.

What to look for:

Jesus' Lifestyle Jesus said that if we want to know what God is like, we can look at him (John 14:9) and Paul wrote that the goal of the Christian life is to be like Christ (Romans 8:29). Therefore we should model our lives after Christ.

Ethical Teachings Jesus' ethical statements are timeless, so look for where they hit you.

Parables Consider Jesus' interpretation of the parable and the context to discover the timeless truth. Then bring that principle into a current situation in your life.

Figures of Speech Put yourself in the story. Ask: "How is Christ 'bread' (or water, etc.) to me?" Matthew 13:45-6...the kingdom of heaven is invaluable-nothing else in life compares. I must make it the number one priority in my life.

* *How to Apply the Bible* - Dave Veerman

Walking with Jesus

JOURNEY 2014



Reading Format

To maximize your reading of the Gospels we will follow two schedules. We will begin with the one below which will take you into May. In June, your second time through will be **chronological**. Review your daily reading plan to stay on course.

Begin with Mark - Most likely the first chronological account of Jesus' ministry.

Read Matthew - Written to a Jewish/Christian community. "This was to fulfill" is an often found phrase in Matthew. His audience would want to know that.

Then John - takes fewer events in Jesus life and writes longer dialogues and details. It contains a lot of the life of Jesus not before read, especially his last two weeks before the crucifixion. John has been called a Holy Week account with an extended introduction.

Now Luke - The only New Testament book written by a Gentile. Luke and Acts are both written by Apostle Paul's traveling companion Luke.

Why read chronological?

A chronological reading takes the four Gospels and attempts to put all of the events in order. If you have never read/studied using a chronological Bible, this will give you new insight into the sequence of the Bible "calendar". This schedule is adapted from outline created by Walk Thru The Bible.

Walking with Jesus

J URNEY 2014

There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God. - Brother Lawrence

Today's Date _____

What you read _____

Any new revelation as to who Jesus is? _____

Personal Reflection *As you write and reflect keep in mind:*

What does this text tell me about Jesus: His lifestyle, teachings, a parable or figure of speech? What is happening in this chapter?

We read illumined *and walk transformed*

Action--What does Jesus want me to do about what I have read?

Pray--talk with your Dad & **listen** _____



Thanksgiving

You are my God, and I will give you thanks;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. Psalm 118:28-29

Why Reading & Journaling is Important to Me

The daily journal has been an essential part in my spiritual growth. My relationship with my Lord and Savior is getting stronger on a daily basis. It is without a doubt the best part of my day. Thank you for introducing me to this wonderful way to learn his word and speak to my Father every day. **Richard Ekey**



1st Samuel 3:1 says “*in those days, the word of the Lord was rare...*”



For much of my life as a Christian, I could identify with that statement. God didn't seem to be talking to me and I wasn't really sure he was talking to anyone else. Next year will be my eighth year of reading the Bible “almost” every day and my life has been blessed beyond what I ever dreamt. God's word has helped me be a better disciple, a better husband and a better father. This Journal will help you listen to God. It will be a blessing to you and everyone you love. Give it a try and see what God wants to tell you! **John Bryan**

Years ago as a Christian, I was going through life and that was it. I wanted more. For the last 14 years I have read through the Bible every year, except 2008. I ask God every day before I read, to open my eyes & show me His wisdom and allow me to fellowship with Him as I read. God has instructed, corrected and allowed me to live in and with His power. I ask for His specific promises and I read them each day, be manifest in my life, ask him to expose my sins (and He does), and I enjoy his provision & peace. **Dale Hedrick**



I have found that when I'm in the Word, it is much easier for me to hear God and to follow Him. I'm still amazed at how often I use what I read each morning during that same day. There is nothing that has happened in my life that hasn't been solved in Scripture. It is the blueprint for life. **Steve Scalici**