A REDEEMING PRODUCTIVITY GUIDE

The MacArthur Bible Reading Plan

Read the New Testament 30 times in about three years.

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INTRODUCTION

A Simple, Repeatable Plan

Most Bible reading plans aim to get you through Scripture in a year. Others focus on deep study of just a few verses at a time. But John MacArthur's Bible reading plan sits in a fascinating middle ground.

It's simple, it's repeatable, and it will give you a deep familiarity with the New Testament like few other methods can.

This is the plan I used in the years leading up to seminary, and I continue to benefit from it to this day. I can quickly recall where passages are, what each chapter is about, and how the New Testament fits together because of the investment I made in this reading plan over a decade ago.

If you own a MacArthur Study Bible, you'll find the plan outlined in the front pages. This guide breaks it down step by step, with a tracker and chapter summary sheets at the back.

1 *Repeat*

2 *Summarize*

3 *Move On*

HOW THE PLAN WORKS

Thirty Times Through

The goal is straightforward: **read the New Testament 30 times over the course of about three years.** That might sound extreme, because it is! The purpose of this plan isn't to rush through Scripture; it's to build deep familiarity and let God's Word sink into your heart.

> *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
>
> PSALM 119:11

That's what this plan is all about: storing up God's Word so it becomes part of you.

1 *Read One Book, Thirty Times*

Choose a short book. MacArthur suggests starting with 1 John. Read it in one sitting each day for 30 days. The repetition may feel tedious at times, but somewhere around day 15 or 16, you'll notice things "open up" in the text.

2 *Summarize Each Chapter*

As you read, jot down a one- or two-word summary of each chapter. Over time, you'll build a mental index of the book. You'll know, "1 John 1 is about X, 1 John 2 is about Y," and so on.

3 *Move Through Longer Books by Sections*

Not every book is as short as 1 John. For longer books, divide them into natural sections you can read in a single sitting. The tracker at the back of this guide lays out all 37 sections for you.

WHY THIS WORKS

Saturation, Not Just Exposure

Most Bible reading plans are designed for exposure. A “Bible in a year” plan gives you the wide-angle view of Scripture, which is incredibly valuable. Memorization drills down to the other extreme, focusing intensely on just a few verses.

MacArthur’s plan lives somewhere in the middle. By saturating yourself in the same book or section over and over, you push God’s Word deep into your mind and heart.

Years after finishing this plan, I can still feel its impact. I know where passages live, I can connect chapters to their themes, and I approach the New Testament with a kind of familiarity that has shaped my ministry and my daily walk with Christ.

USING THE TRACKER

Each row is one section and each column is one day. Make a check in the next column each day you read it. When all 30 columns are filled, move to the next section. Use the Chapter Summary sheets to record your one- or two-word summaries as you go.

KEEP GOING

Get more done for the glory of God.

Essays, podcasts, and resources on a biblical approach to productivity at redeemingproductivity.com

Reading Tracker

SECTIONS 1–19

	PASSAGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	1 John																														
2	John 1–7																														
3	John 8–14																														
4	John 15–21																														
5	Philippians																														
6	Matthew 1–7																														
7	Matthew 8–14																														
8	Matthew 15–21																														
9	Matthew 22–28																														
10	Ephesians																														
11	Luke 1–8																														
12	Luke 9–17																														
13	Luke 18–24																														
14	Galatians, Philemon																														
15	Acts 1–7																														
16	Acts 8–14																														
17	Acts 15–21																														
18	Acts 22–28																														
19	Colossians, Jude																														

Reading Tracker

SECTIONS 20–37

PASSAGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
20 Mark 1–8																														
21 Mark 9–16																														
22 1 & 2 Timothy																														
23 Romans 1–8																														
24 Romans 9–16																														
25 1 & 2 Peter																														
26 1 Corinthians 1–8																														
27 1 Corinthians 9–16																														
28 1 & 2 Thessalonians																														
29 2 Corinthians 1–7																														
30 2 Corinthians 8–13																														
31 James																														
32 Hebrews 1–7																														
33 Hebrews 8–13																														
34 Titus, 2 & 3 John																														
35 Revelation 1–8																														
36 Revelation 9–15																														
37 Revelation 16–22																														

Chapter Summary

BOOK _____

Write a one- or two-word summary for each chapter. Print one sheet per book.

CH.	SUMMARY
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CH.	SUMMARY
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