

5 QUICK TIPS FOR READING THE BIBLE IN 2008



Although National Bible Reading Week officially ended on November 25, the truth is most Americans with the itch to read through the Bible next year won't start for about another month. The smart ones, though, will grab a pencil and get a jump with these 5 Quick Tips for Reading the Bible in 2008.

- 1 Take the handicap and start now.** Golfers play with handicaps, why shouldn't readers? If you've had a hard time keeping up a Bible reading pace in the past, why wait until the gun sounds in January? Start your 2008 Bible reading now and by January 1st, you'll already have hit your stride.
- 2 Start like you mean it.** Easing into a pool can be hard and so can easing into a book. In order to get into *any* book you need to give it a fair start, more than just a couple of minutes over coffee. Try setting a kickoff day for your Bible reading and spending an hour in the Word at home, in a park, at your local coffee shop or wherever you'll be comfortable and uninterrupted.
- 3 Make it fun.** Bible reading isn't God's great homework assignment . . . it is a relationship! Read over coffee or ice cream, read in a hot tub, read just for the joy of it!
- 4 Bring a friend.** Never underestimate the power of a group. Face it, if no one is going to ask you if you've been reading, you may not read. However, if you are regularly accountable to another person or group of people for what you are reading and learning, you'll find that it is much easier to keep moving forward.
- 5 Keep praying.** Pray and keep praying that God will give you the desire for His Word and the desire to spread that flame to others.

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Pam Gillaspie is the author of *Ablaze: Igniting Spiritual Passion for Life through Reading God's Word*. Download this list and other free Bible study tools at www.deepandwide.org.