

Lent Launch Challenges St. James to Read the Whole Bible by Lent 2020

by Mo. Rebecca Dinovo

St. James is launching a fun and educational program that has gained momentum throughout the Episcopal Church in recent years called "The Bible Challenge: Read the Bible in One Year." We are challenged to complete the Bible by Lent 2020.

We will launch it at St. James on the First Monday of Lent, March 11, and every member of St. James is invited to participate in some way. Come and sign up! You can choose whether to read the entire Bible, the New Testament, the Psalms, the Gospels, or even do a



kid/parent version! We have readings schedules for whichever option you choose.

How It Works

Read the Bible according to the daily schedule you will get during the week Monday through Saturday beginning on

Monday, March 11th. It is assumed you will hear the assigned Bible lessons at church every Sunday but you can always read the lectionary readings on your own too (See the front page of the Chimes).

Special Support Resources

Those who sign up will receive a Bible Reading Schedule, email support, prayer support as well as periodic check-ins along with the option to join a small group. Anyone who participates will be invited to a special "closing banquet" at the end of the year and will receive a certificate. Those who read the whole Bible will get a special certificate.

Our Adult Education will focus on Biblical studies and Biblical themes throughout the coming year as well to support your studies.

Participants are encouraged to utilize resources to assist them including *The Bible Challenge* study book. This gives the daily schedule of readings along with helpful daily devotional commentary from more than 100 archbishops, bishops, deans, priests and scholars from the Episcopal Church and wider Anglican Communion. We have a few copies available for sale (\$18). Please contact me for a copy or check online. Another option

to consider is purchasing a *One Year Bible*.

There are Plenty of Bibles

If you do not have a Bible, please let me know at rebecca@sjbts.org. We have FREE BIBLES to give to anyone who would like one. There are Bibles for adults as well as children's Bibles. And don't forget that you can download a Bible to read on your smart phone, tablet, or computer. Audio Bibles are another great way to go through the Bible.

In the Episcopal Church we primarily utilize the *New Revised Standard Version* but some other versions that are even easier to read include *The Story*, *The Message*, *The Good News Bible*, and *The Living Bible*.

Opportunity for Parents and Kids

If you would like to participate in the Parent/Child Bible Challenge, please let me know in order to receive a guide with suggestions and more resources especially for you.

Prayerfully consider joining the challenge and sign up today to be part of our parish-wide Bible Challenge! Feel free to invite friends and neighbors - anyone can participate!

You can sign up on the sign-up sheets after services, at the church office, or send an email to me: rebecca@sjbts.org. Please specify your interest in any resources and whether you'd like to join a small group.

To learn more about The Bible Challenge visit: <http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/> or contact me with any questions you might have.

Our Starting Prayer

"Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

