



Park Street  
Growing discipleship through relationships

# Coming this Fall to Park Street



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What do you think of when you think of the Bible? Is it images of Noah and his Ark? Jesus leading and teaching his disciples? Do you think about a book that brings hope and comfort? A book that teaches about love and grace? Or do you think about a book that brings hurt and pain? A book that seems outdated and out of touch?

No matter what image comes to your mind, I think we can all agree that no other book has shaped the course of human history as much as The Holy Bible, and certainly no other book has helped more to shape the course of Christian life.

So what would it look like to read the Bible in its entirety? What kind of questions would it raise to read the scriptures from cover to cover? What kind of impact might it have on us and on the way we live? And what kind of change might it have on our relationship with Jesus and with one another? This fall I want to invite us to find out together.

This September Park Street will be embarking on The Bible Year: A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days. This is a Bible reading plan that takes us through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Together, as a church, we will be reading and learning together. Along with the daily readings, our sermons will also be centered around where we are and what we are reading. We will also have small group study opportunities for those that wish to dive in and discuss further.

I know what you may be thinking. “I don’t have time for that. There’s barely enough time to get done what I do already.” Or maybe you’re thinking, “The Bible is too hard, so many names, so many places that are hard to pronounce.” Believe me, I get it. There are barriers that we face when it comes to reading and understanding the Bible, and yet, I still think there is a reason why we should take on the challenge: Story.

We see the world in terms of story. Stories of good overcoming evil, stories of triumph over adversity, stories of grief and pain, stories of love and hope. Story is how we make sense of the world, and it is how we make sense of our lives. And who doesn’t want to live their story better? We don’t want to just survive, we want to thrive. We all want to be the best parents to our kids that we can be, we all want to be more loving and supportive spouses, we all wonder what the next chapter or stage in our lives will bring, and we all want to find a way to live the best story that God is calling us to live.

Rev. Magrey R. Devega who developed The Bible Year for his church describes it like this: “The Bible Year is built on the premise that there is no better way to learn to live your story as God intends it than for you to find yourself in the Bible’s stories.”

- Are you scared or afraid? The Bible has stories for you.
- Do you fret about your health, your future, or your well-being? The Bible has stories for you.
- Do you wonder where God is in the midst of tragedy and suffering? The Bible has stories for you.
- Do you want to be the best father, mother, sibling, or family member that you

can be? The Bible has stories for you.

- Are you confused or unsure about your future? The Bible has stories for you.

We all approach the Bible with different understandings, different backgrounds, and different journeys, and yet as Rev. Devega writes, beginning this journey “with differing starting points is actually a strength.” Scripture is first and foremost a story about God and God’s people, and as people of faith that means this is our story as well. I hope you will join me as we dive into our story together.

As a precursor to beginning The Bible Year together, we will be holding a Bible Boot Camp on Sunday, August 27 at 3 pm. On that day we will talk about the Bible, learn about its makeup, what it is, and what it isn't, as well as go over a few tips, tricks, and techniques to get the most out of our reading. There will also be a children's component at the boot camp led by Mrs. Jessica.

In the meantime, I want to ask for your help with a few things. First, be in prayer for yourself and for our church as we prepare. I believe that God will do amazing things in and through us as we read together. Second, if you would like the accompanying book please click here <http://bit.ly/Bibleyearbook> and fill out the form or purchase yourself on Amazon here <https://www.amazon.com/Bible-Year-Devotional-Magrey-deVega/dp/179102341X>. While the book is not required, and a free reading plan will be provided for everyone, the book, does, however, help to serve as a devotional aid throughout the reading.

My hope is that together we will learn not only how to read the Bible without fear and frustration, but also come to see how the Bible is still a valuable and useful gift from God. May we be drawn closer to God, and closer to one another, as we explore God’s story, our story, together.

Blessings,

Pastor David





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