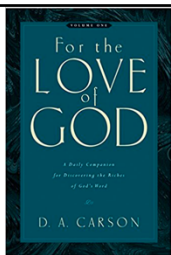


Jerry Bridges has wisely said, "If we do not actively seek to come under the influence of God's Word, we will come under the influence of sinful society around us."¹ One of the most important sanctifying disciplines for the Christian is the daily reading and prayerful meditation upon God's Word. A reading plan can be a helpful in providing a plan in order to systematically take you through the entire Bible (or a section of it). There are a number of pre-made plans or software that can generate them; M'Cheyne's is a plan that has survived the test of time and proven itself to be a favorite of many in our body. One of the recommended books of the month is *For the Love of God*, a 365-day devotional commentary on the day's reading from M'Cheyne's Plan. We also are highlighting a Daily Bible Reading help for children (approximately ages 6-12) called *Exploring the Bible*. Or if you are already reading the Bible each day, consider choosing a daily devotional that will do a good job of pastorally setting the eyes of your heart upon the Lord in the gospel each day. I strongly commend the discipline of committing to read daily both individually and as a family. Devotionals like these are excellent tools to get you started.

Jacob Hantla, pastor-elder



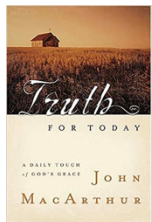
In D. A. Carson's, *For the Love of God*, each day has a one-page commentary or devotional discussion on what you read that day if you are on the M'Cheyne's reading plan. Helpfully, the four passages that you are to read for the day are also on the page. I have benefitted each time I have read this book while reading the M'Cheyne's plan. It feels like I'm reading along with a friend who helps me think about and engage with what I read. If you are not on a reading plan, now is a great time to start and this will help.



Exploring the Bible is a daily devotional designed for children (age 6-12) to read their Bible front to back, reading and understanding key passages on their own (or likely with some help for the younger kids). Each day has a passage to read, help with prayer, and a spot to respond. The best part is that the discipline of daily Bible reading and prayer is established in an accessible, not-overwhelming way. Each Sunday there is opportunity for deeper reflection and review on the week and a spot for sermon notes (we use it for communion notes). My daughter has completed a few months of this, reading each day, and loves it.



New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp is an excellent new daily devotional designed to help you shepherd your heart to God in the gospel each day. Each day's single-page, gospel-saturated reading takes just a few minutes but if you take the time to think deeply and apply what you read, it will benefit you greatly each day. These are optimal for individual reading alongside of your normal Bible reading, but it would also work well for dinner-table family devotional reading. Each day's reading is intentionally gospel focused without redundancy.



Truth for Today by John MacArthur offers a very short and easy-to-read snippet about a single verse. Each month of the year is unified around a single topic, for example salvation in January, discipleship in March, Christ in December. As these are very short and very focused on a single verse, I would recommend Truth for Today as optimal for reading each day as a family conversation starter. The benefit here is a very short devotional commentary on a single verse, so reading God's Word daily a family will only take a few minutes. Very accessible.

¹ Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace: God's Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006), 171.