



August 15, 2022

Dear First Church Family,

Do any of the following sound familiar?

“I’ve tried to read the Bible, but I’ve never made it all the way through.”

“I’ve read bits and pieces of the Bible, but I don’t really know how they all fit together.”

“I’ve never read the Bible, but I’d be interested to find out what’s in it.”

“I love the Bible. I just need a little help understanding how it applies to my life today.”

Help may come in the form of *The Essential 100 Challenge*®, a reading plan developed by Scripture Union, Inc. Whether you are new to the Bible or you’ve been reading it for years, *The Essential 100 Challenge* is a unique and meaningful way to get an overview of the Bible’s message. *The Essential 100* is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Most are about 1-2 chapters in length, just the right amount for a busy person to read in a few minutes. The readings cover all major types of biblical writing, including the Historical Books, Poetry and Wisdom, the Prophets, the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation. They’re organized into 20 sets of 5 readings each, so you can easily get the big picture of the Bible without getting bogged down. Enclosed is the list of *The Essential 100* readings. The attached QR code is linked to an online version of this plan.

While reading *The Essential 100* can help one gain more knowledge of the Bible and possibly help establish a spiritual discipline, the real objective is to allow each reader to see how this Big Story is our story – even today. That is where group study is helpful.

Beginning Sunday, **September 11, at 9:15 am in Hollis Hall**, the readings from Week 1, “In the Beginning,” will be discussed. These Old Testament readings will continue thereafter through November 20. Discussions from the New Testament will begin January 2023.

Should you have any questions or wish to know more about this course of study, an introduction to *The Essential 100* will be provided on Sunday, September 4, at 9:15 am in Hollis Hall.

Peace,

The Christian Education Team

