

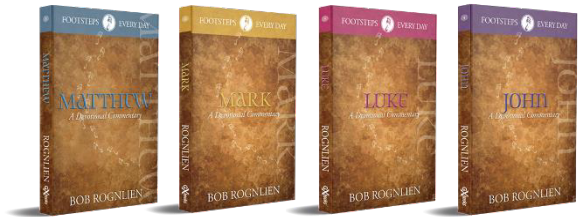
FOOTSTEPS EVERY DAY

A DAILY READING PLAN FOR THE FOUR GOSPELS

Jesus had a predictable pattern of spending time alone with his heavenly Father the King, *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying.* (Mark 1:35) Those who follow Jesus recognize this is a critical rhythm of discipleship—seeking to become more like him by hearing and responding to what he is saying every day. When we listen for the voice of Jesus speaking through his written Word, the Holy Spirit plants faith in our hearts. When we exercise that faith by taking a concrete step in the footsteps of Jesus, we grow as his fruitful disciples and learn to live a more Jesus-shaped life.

Footsteps Every Day is a daily Bible reading plan, designed to help followers of Jesus establish a regular pattern of spending time alone with God, reading Scripture, listening in prayer, and responding with a step of faith. The Gospel Reading Plan is comprised of 313 readings from all four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If you read six days a week, you will go on an incredible year-long journey through all four Gospels by reading every recorded thing Jesus said and did during his life on earth!

This reading plan is designed to go with the series of Devotional Commentaries by Bob Rognlien called *Footsteps Every Day: A Devotional Commentary*, which draw on history, archaeology, and culture to illuminate the Way of Jesus and help you follow him with concrete steps of faith. For more information visit www.bobrognlien.com.



Here are some recommendations for a fruitful devotional journey:

- Pick a time in which you have the highest likelihood of being consistent each day.
- Set aside at least 15 minutes, or better 30 minutes.
- Pick a place where you will be the least distracted and interrupted.
- Make yourself comfortable but adopt an attentive posture.
- Read the Scripture passage in your own Bible. Read it again. Listen.
- Use a devotional commentary to help reflect on its meaning.
- Take some time to prayerfully listen, noting what God seems to be pointing out to you.
- Highlight important phrases and make relevant notes in the margins.
- Prayerfully ask God what he is saying to you and write down what is coming to you.
- Then ask God to show you the next step of faith he wants you to take.
- Write down the step of faith and ask someone to pray for you to follow through.
- Take that step of faith! Rinse and repeat every day!

When we read God's Word and listen to what Jesus is saying to us through the Spirit, it produces faith in our hearts. Our role is to respond to what Jesus is saying by exercising that faith, taking the next step in following the footsteps of Jesus. We are not trying to change ourselves by moral willpower, but rather are putting ourselves in the place where God's Spirit can transform us from the inside out and produce through us good fruit that lasts. This is what it means to live as a Jesus-shaped disciple. Please don't approach your daily reading as a religious task that you must perform but as a gracious daily invitation to draw near to Jesus, hear his voice, and follow where he leads you on this great adventure of discipleship!