

Programme Possibilities for 2011

The E100 Bible Reading Challenge is a very flexible programme which can be used to get your church reading the Bible together – in a way that best suits your local circumstances. We have suggested three possible options to illustrate how you could incorporate E100 into your church's teaching programme, but the possibilities are endless.

The best way to run the Essential 100 Bible Reading Challenge in a church is to get as many participants as possible signed up for the programme and then to work through it at a consistent pace, with pre-agreed milestones. Ideally these weekly milestones would be accompanied by a sermon drawing a message out of the five readings the congregation would be expected to read during the following week, and putting those readings into the context of the meta-narrative of God's plan of salvation. Experience suggests that most people can manage comfortably four readings a week with many going up to five, but this will obviously vary from place to place.

2011	Option A			Option B			Option C		
	Sermon	Readings		Sermon	Readings		Sermon	Readings	
		From	To		From	To		From	To
9 January	1	1	5	1	1	5	1	1	15
16 January	2	6	10	2	6	10			
23 January	3	11	15	3	11	15			
30 January	4	16	20						
6 February	5	21	25	4	16	20	2	16	30
13 February	6	26	30	5	21	25			
20 February	7	31	35	6	26	30			
27 February	8	36	40						
6 March	9	41	45	7	31	35	3	31	40
13 March	10	46	50	8	36	40			
20 March	11	51	55	9	41	45	4	41	50
27 March	12	56	60	10	46	50			
3 April Mothering Sun	13	61	65						
10 April	14	66	70				5	51	65
17 April	15	71	75						
24 April EASTER									
1 May	16	76	80	11	51	55	6	66	75
8 May	17	81	85	12	56	60			
15 May	18	86	90	13	61	65			
22 May	19	91	95						
29 May	20	96	100	14	66	70	7	76	90
5 June				15	71	75			
12 June				16	76	80			
19 June									
26 June				17	81	85	8	91	100
3 July				18	86	90			
10 July				19	91	95			
17 July				20	96	100			

Option A

This is the most demanding option and is only recommended for a church that is ready to sign up to the challenge in a big way. It entails preaching a sermon a week on the relevant E100 theme and the church members reading five readings a week, with one week break built in for Easter. The real advantage of this option is that it keeps the focus on the challenge and builds some real momentum. For churches who are up to the challenge it will reap real rewards.

Option B

This is a more realistic version of Option A. It still has 20 sermons but they are spread over a longer period with gaps built in for all-age services and Easter, for example. The gaps in the teaching programme also provide opportunity for participants to catch up, which means that a greater proportion of participants are likely to stay the course. Despite the breaks this option will be completed before the summer holidays.

Option C

On this option the programme will run over a similar period to Option B but there are fewer sermons – four covering the Old Testament readings and four covering the New Testament readings. This is still a viable approach but risks losing people as the programme progresses unless they are being encouraged in other ways.