It is possible to study the NLT Study Bible without a reading plan—simply start reading! Having a reading plan, though, can help you measure your progress—just as it is useful to have a road map while taking a long journey.

The following reading plan divides the NLT Study Bible into daily readings. Each book of the Bible has an introduction reading, which is followed (except in the shortest books) by one to four reading segments of just the Bible text (listed like this: Gen 1–11). Reading through the book introduction and Bible text first will give you the “big picture” for that book of the Bible. Then there are short readings for the Bible text with the accompanying features. There are also readings for the section introductions and for the chronology and background articles.

If you follow this reading plan and study one section each day, five days per week, you will read through the NLT Study Bible in five years. That sounds like a long time, but it turns out to be a realistic pace. Studying the Bible is not a sprint but a life journey with a daily rhythm of Bible reading, study, meditation, and prayer.

It is possible to work through the NLT Study Bible more quickly or more slowly than this. If you read six days per week rather than five, you will finish in four years, two months. You can finish twice as quickly by reading and studying two sections per day. Whatever pace you choose, we encourage you not just to read but also to question, reflect, meditate, and pray about what you have read. Use a Bible journal to record your discoveries, thoughts, questions, and prayers (see “Keep a Journal,” p. A18). Follow some of the cross-references to other passages. You might even choose to go twice as slowly to spend more time on each passage.

There are a variety of ways to work through the NLT Study Bible. You could simply read through it from beginning to end, pp. 1–2205. You could also move around, reading a book at a time from various places.

We wish you well on your journey through the NLT Study Bible and pray for God’s blessings along the way. Please tell us about your experiences at www.NLTStudyBible.com, or feel free to send us an e-mail at NLTStudyBible@tyndale.com.