



[Author Note: I wrote this intro for students to read before their first devotional time, and to give them vision for what my expectations and hopes were for them during their devotionals. Use this as is or edit to fit your context.]

There's nothing quite like discovering something for the first time, is there?

[Author Note: Share about some of the first-time discoveries you've made in your life.]

Think back to the first time you discovered some of your favorite things—sports, art, friendship, Netflix, history, math, ballet, photography, etc. Everything you now know was a new discovery at one point. We have made millions of discoveries, and we continue making new ones each day.

I still recall growing up and discovering baseball. My dad introduced me to the sport. He shared everything he knew about it with me, and my life changed upon this discovery. I started playing tee-ball, collecting baseball cards, and watching baseball on TV.

Just this week, I discovered I could park in handicap parking at my church without getting towed or fined! Don't judge me. This new discovery will come in clutch when the parking lot is full!

New discoveries are life-changing, and over the next four days, you will begin a process of discovering God's story in new ways.

The One Year Chronological Bible splits God's story into 365 days of reading over the course of a year. We are currently 12 days behind [\[this retreat started on January 12\]](#), but we will be caught up by the time we leave on Monday—going home with a newly developed Bible reading habit!

How to Approach Devotional Time

Devotional Time will happen your own every morning for an hour, and the expectation is simple: read God's story.

You will read each morning for four days in order to get caught up on the daily readings before heading home.

Get your breakfast, take your Bible to a comfortable spot outside, and start reading. If it takes less than an hour, spend the remaining time sitting with God, re-reading, or resting. If more than an hour is needed, please take your time—that's OK! Keep reading until you're finished with that morning's chunk.

The goal isn't to just finish the reading but to enjoy God's story. You won't be tested. This time is meant for you to read for pleasure, encouragement, and growth.

If it helps you to highlight words, verses, or passages while you read, then do so. If interacting through a pen hinders your pleasure to read, then don't do it. Read it the way you need to in order to enjoy and learn.

Read without expectations or pressure.

I'm excited for you to create this habit, and can't wait for you to discover God's story in new ways! I challenge you to read the Bible all the way through this year by letting this weekend be your launching pad to 365 days of reading. Have fun!

[**Author Note:** Make whatever edits you feel are needed for your group, or use as is. The following is exactly how I wrote it and handed it to my group.]

DAY 1 READING

January 1–January 4 (pages 1–17)

Open **The One-Year Chronological Bible** to January 1 to officially begin your journey through God's incredible, life-changing, mind-transforming, heart-renewing, and ever-continuing story.

This morning, you'll begin with God's incredible creation of the universe, humankind, and everything in between.

Take your time reading. Go slowly. There's no rush. Re-read sections if necessary. If you read something helpful, underline it, highlight it, write questions in the margins, and/or take notes. Just read. You won't be tested. Don't use this time or resource to "study" God's Word; use the time to read His story for enjoyment and knowledge.

After finishing today's reading, take a few minutes to consider what you read. Use these questions to assist you through processing your devotional time with God this morning.

1. What is taking place so far in God's story? Who are the main characters?
2. What have you learned about God so far? What's He like? What characteristics does He hold? Who is God so far in the story?
3. What did you learn about humanity? What did you learn about humankind's origin? Does this help you understand yourself better?
4. What was one new thing you learned this morning from your reading?