



## WRITING GUIDELINES YouVersion Bible App 2020-2021

### GENERAL INFORMATION

We are looking for faithful disciples and mature leaders to help expand our collection of YouVersion Bible App reading plans. Strong writing skills are also needed if you want to include a full-length devo or reflection. But plans can be crafted without that element, in which case a love for God's Word and ministry wisdom are the most important factors. Specifically, we are looking for 5-day plans that can be used by both individuals (primarily the students in our ministries, but by extension also leaders, parents, support teams, etc.) and by small group leaders who want to engage with their students through a shared daily devotional reading experience.

Our reading plans are almost exclusively 5-days long. This allows enough time to explore Bible passages or themes within a manageable and inviting timeframe.

Our reading plans are focused on either  
specific contexts (e.g. ["After Camp"](#) — important follow-up for the ride home),  
specific scripture (e.g. ["Mountaintop Teaching"](#) — Jesus' teachings from Matthew 5), or  
specific Biblical themes (e.g. ["Grow"](#) — Biblical images of discipleship; trees, roots, vines, etc.).

Our plans are not centered on specific cultural topics (e.g. "healthy social media use"). We believe those topics and conversations will naturally arise as people read and reflect on scripture.

Our primary goal is to engage readers directly with scripture in order to deepen their awareness and understanding of:

- who God is
- who we are
- the work and reign of Jesus Christ
- the big story of scripture
- living a surrendered life of discipleship, and more.

Our hope is that readers will develop a love and hunger for God's Word and become more deeply rooted in Christ and his transformative truth.

We also hope that our reading plans provide a way for leaders and students to connect regularly throughout the week by reading together in digital community and conversing together in real time.

**Please familiarize yourself with our [current Bible App reading plans](#) before submitting any files.**

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

Create a plan centered on specific scripture/s (e.g. a series of Psalms, an epistle, episodes from Jesus' life, etc. ) or a specific Biblical theme (e.g. abiding in Christ, fruit of the spirit, hearing and doing, etc.).

Ensure that your content connects with a broad audience of students by avoiding terms, illustrations, or allusions that are especially contextualized.

Run your content past some trusted friends and colleagues. Use it with your students. Revise. Refine.

Take time to carefully edit before submitting. Watch for typos, glitched grammar, and perilous punctuation.

Put your content into a Word or Pages document that has:

1" margins all around

12 pt. Times New Roman (or other STANDARD font - no *Beopulr* or **BEDBUG** allowed)

single space throughout (except between sections as noted below)

no specialized formatting (i.e. no bullets, bold, italic, underline, etc.)

Include the following, in this order:

Your name and location

Your role in Young Life

Your contact (email and phone)

**[space]**

Title: (this is the title for the complete 5-day reading plan)

**[space]**

Day 1

**[space]**

*Opening Thoughts* content (no longer than 300 words, and as short as a few sentences. In other words, you do not need to unpack, explicate, ruminate, sermonize, or anything else. If introducing the story about Jesus meeting Zacchaeus, you could be as succinct as this:

Jesus had time for everyone, including people that others hated or ignored. As you read this story, pay attention to the words and actions of Jesus, Zacchaeus, and the crowd.)

**[space]**

*Reflection and/or Discussion* content (1 or 2 reflection prompts, discussion questions, action steps, prayer, etc. that engage readers who are in various stages of spiritual growth and knowledge.)

**[space]**

Scripture passage/s (Book xx:zz — just the location, not the full text. The app will automatically link to the specific passage.)

**[space]**

*Optional* link(s) to related song/video.

**[space]**

Repeat for days 2-5

Email your content to [discipleship@sc.younglife.org](mailto:discipleship@sc.younglife.org) with "YouVersion Bible App Submission" in the subject line. Allow 2-3 weeks for response.