

Near the finish line

We've submitted our 50-day reading plan to YouVersion!

After four months of intensive work, we've finally submitted our first reading plan to the YouVersion Bible App.

Our plan will take Bible readers on a "virtual-tour" walk through the Gospel of Mark. It will have an Introduction and 49 days of devotional material, making it a 50-day plan.

We have several prayer requests related to this project. First, let's all pray that God will be glorified in this effort. God made a way ... in so many ways! This is His project. We're praying God will use it in the way He sees best.

Second, The project is now in the hands of the YouVersion editorial team. They'll review our content and may suggest or require changes. We don't know how long this will take, but we're praying for a mid-April release. The YouVersion team has been overwhelmed with content creators seeking to get new material on the app. Please pray that we'll get through this review process as quickly as possible.

Third, pray that YouVersion will promote our reading plan. With more than 7,000 plans on the app, it's hard for a new plan to get noticed. But since we're offering something that's never been offered on the app, we're praying that our plan will be one of the few that is promoted on the app's home page. If so, we'll be in front of more than a million people ... in our first hour on the app!



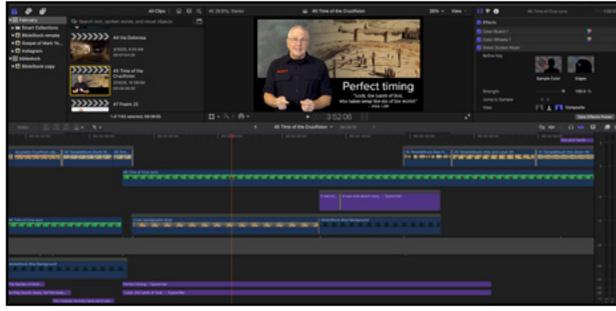
Visit experienceisraelnow.com/youversion to see an example of our reading plan.

Why this is important



YouVersion
The Bible App™

- With more than 1 billion downloads, the Bible App is the world's No. 1 platform for Bible content.
- More than 300 people open the app every second.
- None of the existing reading plans have video from biblical locations.
- We're praying that YouVersion will approve our plan quickly and promote it on the app's home page. If that happens, we may reach more people in a single day than we've reached in our previous 10 years of full-time work.
- We hope the BibleStock reading plan will lead many Bible teachers and pastors to use our resources from BibleStock.org.



1 Scripts were written. We filmed videos in front of a green screen.

2 Video editing software allowed us to remove the “green” behind Pastor Andy. Then we added words, photos, video clips, sound effects, music, graphics, charts, transitions, and key Bible passages to the video.

3 The final product is a short video that will serve as the anchor of our daily reading plan. Participants will read an introduction, watch the video, and then have some follow-up questions for thought.

Looking for our Easter miracle

If I’ve seemed out of touch for these past four months, there’s a reason.

Every spare minute has gone into creating our first reading plan for the YouVersion Bible app.

I first put a few ideas on paper while at a YouVersion summit in Edmond, OK, on November 17. God gave us an amazing miracle the very next day, and by the time I arrived home, the project was upon me in earnest.

Scripts had to be written. A small studio had to be created. The YouVersion team suggested lighting and sound improvements. That took another week of work.

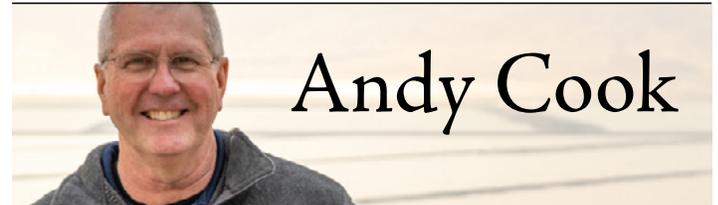
Finally, the recording started. Each video was recorded three or more times. Thank goodness for teleprompters!

The editing process was next, and that took several hours for each video. But after 14 years of collecting photos and video clips, I could visualize what would be showing on the final product before we recorded anything. With each video, I marveled at how God has opened so many doors, given us so many resources, and allowed me to concentrate full time on this work for more than 10 years.

We next wrote the devotional material that will introduce and follow our videos. **You can see an example the reading plan [here](#).**

What happens next is up to God, and up to the YouVersion editorial team. Let’s pray we’re approved quickly and that YouVersion will help their readers find us!

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I am so grateful for the people who helped me do this. Normally our winters are filled with Bible conferences. Sometimes I’ll write a book or a Bible study. All of those things can create income for us. Without that income this winter, we’ve been depending upon the generosity of our supporters more than ever. So thank you for every prayer, every word of encouragement, and every gift.

This project is an investment in God’s Kingdom. We’re hoping we’ll get more traffic on biblestock.org, but if that never happens, we’ll still be on an app that has millions of readers checking in every day. We don’t get paid for this honor, but we also don’t have to pay anything for the amazing exposure. This is the Great Commission at work in a digital age!

In other news, we just lost our Israel trip. We had a group trip to Israel scheduled for May 4-15. The Israeli airline contacted us just this week, suggesting strongly that we cancel the trip. We did.

Our hearts are heavy. Now we pray for that our military forces will carry out their task to a full completion. How we hope that we can soon return to Israel in a much safer environment.