




HOW THIS READING CHALLENGE WORKS

 **THE GOAL:** Try to accumulate the highest number of points you can during the calendar year. This will lead to a year of increased and diverse reading.

 **HOW IT WORKS:** Tailor your 2023 reading around one or more of the four challenges (monthly, format, themed, & flexible). You do not need to attempt all challenges, nor do you need to finish one before moving on to another.

 **STRATEGY:** Each category yields a different number of points, so if a book you read fits more than one category, fill it out in the spot yielding the most points. You can only check off a book you read in one challenge category.

MY 2023 READING SCORE

Calculate this score after finishing your last book for 2023

Monthly points _____ + Format points _____ + Themed Points _____ + Flexible points _____ = _____ **TOTAL POINTS**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to read e-books only?

No, three of the four challenges are format agnostic. Only in the “format” challenges are certain book types required (ex. “Read an audiobook”). You can complete any other challenge using a paper book, e-book, or audiobook.

Does a book have to be Christian to count?

No, except when specified. There are some categories such as “read a book by someone in [Christian denomination name],” which are explicitly Christian. However, there are many more categories which are open-ended, such as “an author’s debut book” or a “a book that will help you be a better worker.” For these types of categories, they count whether they were written by a Christian or non-Christian.

Can I fulfill challenges with fiction books?

Yes. While some themes may be impossible to fulfill with fiction, many were written broadly so that you can choose to fulfill it with a fiction book if desired (ex. a book that will make you laugh).

How long do I have to finish a book?

For three of the challenges (themed, format, flexible) you can start a new book anytime in 2023 and it will count towards your point total as long as you finish by Dec 31, 2023. The “monthly” challenges also do not need to be finished until year’s end, but those need to be STARTED in the corresponding month to count.

What is my high score good for?

Consider doing the challenge with a friend, spouse, or group. You can then challenge them as a means of accountability or as friendly competition. You can also challenge yourself by trying to outdo your score next year.

12 MONTHLY THEMED READING CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: Start a relevant book during the corresponding month and finish it by year's end.
REWARD: 3 points per completed month. Earn 6 additional points if you complete all 12 months.

JANUARY Theme: *New Year*

Read a book that will grow you as a person

BOOK: _____

FEBRUARY Theme: *Valentine's Day*

Read a book on love, singleness, or marriage

BOOK: _____

MARCH Theme: *Lent*

Read a lent themed book

BOOK NAME: _____

APRIL Theme: *Easter*

Read a book on Jesus' death or resurrection

BOOK: _____

MAY Theme: *Pentecost*

Read a book on the Holy Spirit or the book of Acts

BOOK: _____

JUNE Theme: *Pride Month*

Read a book about homosexuality or transgenderism

BOOK: _____

JULY Theme: *Patriotism*

Read a book about your country

BOOK: _____

AUGUST Theme: *Back to School Month*

Read a book that will grow your brain

BOOK: _____

SEPTEMBER Theme: *Labor Day*

Read a book that will help you be a better worker

BOOK: _____

OCTOBER Theme: *Reformation Day*

Read a book on the Protestant Reformation

BOOK: _____

NOVEMBER Theme: *All Saint's Day*

Read a biography of a Christian (deceased)

BOOK: _____

DECEMBER Theme: *Christmas*

Read a Christmas themed book

BOOK: _____

A BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE "FORMAT" CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: Read books that were acquired in different ways or read in different formats.

REWARD: 2.5 points per completed category. Earn 3 additional points if you finish all 6.

A soft or hardcover book

BOOK: _____

An e-book

BOOK: _____

An audiobook

BOOK: _____

A book from the library

BOOK: _____

A book loaned or gifted from someone

BOOK: _____

A book you're reading with someone

BOOK: _____

50 THEMED READING CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: Read books that fit a listed theme.

REWARD: 2 points per completed book.

YEAR END BONUS POINTS: 10-19 books (4 bonus points) 20-29 books (8 points) 30-39 books (12 points) 40-49 books (16 points) All 50 books (25-point bonus)

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book by an author who's first name is an Old Testament character | <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by an author who graduated from Oxford or Cambridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that is critical about a belief you hold | <input type="checkbox"/> A book with a one-word title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book by someone who teaches at a bible college or seminary | <input type="checkbox"/> A book by someone who uses the Dr. prefix on the cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book about a topic you feel uninformed about | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will help cultivate your masculinity or femininity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book originally written in the 1980s or 1990s | <input type="checkbox"/> A book about healthy living or food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by a prolific author (published 20+ books) | <input type="checkbox"/> A book about music or written by a musician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that someone called a "must read" | <input type="checkbox"/> A book about sociology or a social issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will help you be a better church member | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that you think will help you grow closer to God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A memoir written by a man | <input type="checkbox"/> A memoir written by a woman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will be a nostalgic read for you | <input type="checkbox"/> A book you've already read before |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book you've put off reading too long | <input type="checkbox"/> A graphic novel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book from an author you've met | <input type="checkbox"/> A book published in 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book you anticipated reading before it was released | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that has never been a bestseller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will help you be a better steward of God's money | <input type="checkbox"/> A book on a specific virtue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book you're hoping will settle an issue for you | <input type="checkbox"/> A book on spiritual warfare or the demonic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by a Presbyterian
(ex. Carl Trueman, Kevin DeYoung, Francis Schaeffer) | <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by a Lutheran
(ex. Gene Veith, Jordan Cooper, Dietrich Bonhoeffer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book about worldview or apologetics | <input type="checkbox"/> A book about a specific historical event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will teach you about another denomination or religion | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will expand your knowledge of a country, people group, or era of time. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that has an illustrated cover | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that has two or more authors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by a senior citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> An author's debut book |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will make you laugh | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will inspire you to create or produce something |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book about sports or written by an athlete | <input type="checkbox"/> A book you think no one at your church has heard of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book to help you understand the New Testament better | <input type="checkbox"/> A book to help you understand the Old Testament better |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that will help you be a better friend or neighbor | <input type="checkbox"/> A book about politics or the role of government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book 10+ years ago you'd be surprised you were reading today | <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by someone who lives outside North America |

