



THE RETURN

THE OFFICIAL
READING PLANS

LENT PRAY40
THE RETURN AND
THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

Welcome Hallow's Pray40 Reading Plans designed to accompany you as we journey through the incredible book The Brothers Karamazov by Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky.

In Pray40: The Return, Jonathan Roumie, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, Mark Wahlberg, and Chris Pratt walk you through key moments and characters in this classic novel, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way.

Find out more about Pray40: The Return at [HALLOW.COM/COLLECTIONS/2845/](https://www.hallow.com/collections/2845/)

ABOUT THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

The Brothers Karamazov is a literary classic that, through the lives of a father and his sons, explores the perennial themes of human nature, the impact of sin, our responsibility to each other, and the role of faith in transforming how we see others. If you'd like to purchase your own copy to follow along during Pray40, click here: [HALLOW.COM/KARAMAZOV](https://www.hallow.com/karamazov)

ABOUT THE READING PLANS

If you're hearing "Karamazov," "literary," and "Dostoevsky" and feeling intimidated, don't worry. We've got reading options for everyone. The Abridged Reading Plan is perfect for you if you're just looking to go more deeply into what you hear every day in Pray40 but not interested in reading all 800 pages.

In the **ABRIDGED READING PLAN**, you'll find:

Passages to read from The Brothers Karamazov that correspond to the reflections and prayers in Pray40

Quick summaries of what happens that week in the Pray40 challenge

Key quotes for you to chew on throughout the week

If you're feeling really ambitious and want to read the entire novel, we've got a 100-Day Reading Plan that can be completed any time of year. You can start it on Ash Wednesday and finish around Pentecost, or you can start when your life allows and finish 100 days later!

In the **100-DAY READING PLAN**, you'll find:

Perfectly paced assignments for every day

Strategically timed "rest days" to help you chew on the major themes and conflicts of the novel

Tips for what to pay attention to as you read



ABRIDGED READING PLAN

TO ACCOMPANY YOU THROUGH EACH WEEK OF PRAY40

WEEK 1: RETURN

TO READ

BOOK 1 [Page 1-28]

NOTES

This week, get to know the Karamazov family and their tangled beginnings by reading Book I of *The Brothers Karamazov*.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"Alexey Fyodorovitch Karamazov was the third son of Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov, a land owner well known in our district in his own day, and still remembered among us owing to his gloomy and tragic death, which happened thirteen years ago, and which I shall describe in its proper place." **(PG. 30)**



WEEK 2: WHAT DO I OWE?

TO READ

BOOK 2: Chapter 4 [47-53], Chapter 8 [78-86];

BOOK 6: Chapters 1-3 [273-305]

NOTES

Walk with Elder Zosima through his story of conversion and spiritual fatherhood in Books II and VI of *The Brothers Karamazov*.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"It's just the same story as a doctor once told me," observed the elder. "He was a man getting on in years, and undoubtedly clever. He spoke as frankly as you, though in jest, in bitter jest. 'I love humanity,' he said, 'but I wonder at myself. The more I love humanity in general, the less I love man in particular. In my dreams,' he said, 'I have often come to making enthusiastic schemes for the service of humanity, and perhaps I might actually have faced crucifixion if it had been suddenly necessary; and yet I am incapable of living in the same room with any one for two days together, as I know by experience. As soon as any one is near me, his personality disturbs my self-complacency and restricts my freedom. In twenty-four hours I begin to hate the best of men: one because ...he has a cold and keeps on blowing his nose. I become hostile to people the moment they come close to me. But it has always happened that the more I detest men individually the more ardent becomes my love for humanity.'" **(PG. 51)**

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WEEK 2: WHAT DO I OWE? (CONT.)

"I am sorry I can say nothing more consoling to you, for love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams. Love in dreams is greedy for immediate action, rapidly performed and in the sight of all. Men will even give their lives if only the ordeal does not last long but is soon over, with all looking on and applauding as though on the stage. But active love is labor and fortitude, and for some people too, perhaps, a complete science." **(PG. 52)**

"Mother, little heart of mine, my joy, believe me, every one is really responsible to all men for all men and for everything. I don't know how to explain it to you, but I feel it is so, painfully even. And how is it we went on then living, getting angry and not knowing?" **(PG. 279)**

"God, can that too be false? In truth, perhaps, I am more than all others responsible for all, a greater sinner than all men in the world. And all at once the whole truth in its full light appeared to me; what was I going to do? I was going to kill a good, clever, noble man, who had done me no wrong, and by depriving his wife of happiness for the rest of her life, I should be torturing and killing her too." **(PG. 289)**



WEEK 3: CAN THERE BE BEAUTY IN SODOM?

TO READ

BOOK 3: Chapters 3-5 [95-115];
BOOK 8: Chapter 4 [386-390], Chapter 8 [430-442]

NOTES

Follow Mitya Karamazov into his storm of passion, honor, and repentance in selected chapters of *The Brothers Karamazov*.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"I am that insect, brother, and it is said of me specially. All we Karamazovs are such insects, and, angel as you are, that insect lives in you, too, and will stir up a tempest in your blood. Tempests, because sensual lust is a tempest—worse than a tempest! Beauty is a terrible and awful thing! It is terrible because it has not been fathomed and never can be fathomed, for God sets us nothing but riddles... Is there beauty in Sodom? Believe me, that for the immense mass of mankind beauty is found in Sodom. Did you know that secret? The awful thing is that beauty is mysterious as well as terrible. God and the devil are fighting there and the battlefield is the heart of man. But a man always talks of his own ache. Listen, now to come to facts." **(PG. 102)**

"Lord, receive me, with all my lawlessness, and do not condemn me. Let me pass by Thy judgment ... do not condemn me, for I have condemned myself, do not condemn me, for I love Thee, O Lord. I am a wretch, but I love Thee. If Thou sendest me to hell, I shall love Thee there, and from there I shall cry out that I love Thee for ever and ever." **(PG. 410)**

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WEEK 3: CAN THERE BE BEAUTY IN SODOM? (CONT.)

"O God! restore to life the man I knocked down at the fence! Let this fearful cup pass from me! Lord, thou hast wrought miracles for such sinners as me! But what, what if the old man's alive? Oh, then the shame of the other disgrace I would wipe away. I would restore the stolen money. I'd give it back; I'd get it somehow.... No trace of that shame will remain except in my heart for ever!" **(PG. 435)**

"'Ex-Lieutenant Karamazov, it is my duty to inform you that you are charged with the murder of your father, Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov, perpetrated this night....' He said something more, and the prosecutor, too, put in something, but though Mitya heard them he did not understand them. He stared at them all with wild eyes." **(PG. 442)**

WEEK 4: WHERE IS GOD?

TO READ

BOOK 5: Chapters 4-5 [228-255], Chapter 7 [266-272]

NOTES

Wrestle with Ivan Karamazov's questions about God, suffering, and freedom in Book V of *The Brothers Karamazov*.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"It's not that I don't accept God, you must understand, it's the world created by Him I don't and cannot accept. Let me make it plain. I believe like a child that suffering will be healed and made up for, that all the humiliating absurdity of human contradictions will vanish like a pitiful mirage, like the despicable fabrication of the impotent and infinitely small Euclidian mind of man, that in the world's finale, at the moment of eternal harmony, something so precious will come to pass that it will suffice for all hearts, for the comforting of all resentments, for the atonement of all the crimes of humanity, of all the blood they've shed; that it will make it not only possible to forgive but to justify all that has happened with men—but though all that may come to pass, I don't accept it. I won't accept it." **(PG. 227)**

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WEEK 4: WHERE IS GOD? (CONT.)

"No, I can't admit it. Brother," said Alyosha suddenly, with flashing eyes, "You said just now, is there a being in the whole world who would have the right to forgive and could forgive? But there is a Being and He can forgive everything, all and for all, because He gave His innocent blood for all and everything. You have forgotten Him, and on Him is built the edifice, and it is to Him they cry aloud, 'Thou art just, O Lord, for Thy ways are revealed!'" **(PG. 238)**

"I don't want harmony. From love for humanity I don't want it. I would rather be left with the unavenged suffering. I would rather remain with my unavenged suffering and unsatisfied indignation, even if I were wrong. Besides, too high a price is asked for harmony; it's beyond our means to pay so much to enter on it. And so I hasten to give back my entrance ticket, and if I am an honest man I am bound to give it back as soon as possible. And that I am doing. It's not God that I don't accept, Alyosha, only I most respectfully return Him the ticket." **(PG. 251)**



WEEK 5: WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

TO READ

BOOK 3: Chapter 11 [148-156];
BOOK 4: Chapter 2 [166-169];
BOOK 7: Chapter 1-2 [321-336]

NOTES

Follow our hero, Alyosha Karamazov, from the monastery into the world, and into the daily work of love.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"What is it? This is not your place for the time. I bless you for great service in the world. Yours will be a long pilgrimage. And you will have to take a wife, too. You will have to bear all before you come back. There will be much to do. But I don't doubt of you, and so I send you forth. Christ is with you. Do not abandon Him and He will not abandon you. You will see great sorrow, and in that sorrow you will be happy. This is my last message to you: in sorrow seek happiness. Work, work unceasingly. Remember my words, for although I shall talk with you again, not only my days but my hours are numbered." **(PG. 71)**

"At some thoughts one stands perplexed, especially at the sight of men's sin, and wonders whether one should use force or humble love. Always decide to use humble love. If you resolve on that once for all, you may subdue the whole world. Loving humility is marvelously strong, the strongest of all things, and there is nothing else like it." **(PG. 312)**

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WEEK 5: WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE? (CONT.)

"But it was justice, justice, he thirsted for, not simply miracles.

And now the man who should, he believed, have been exalted above every one in the whole world, that man, instead of receiving the glory that was his due, was suddenly degraded and dishonored! What for? Who had judged him? Who could have decreed this? Those were the questions that wrung his inexperienced and virginal heart. He could not endure without mortification, without resentment even, that the holiest of holy men should have been exposed to the jeering and spiteful mockery of the frivolous crowd so inferior to him. Even had there been no miracles, had there been nothing marvelous to justify his hopes, why this indignity, why this humiliation, why this premature decay, 'in excess of nature,' as the spiteful monks said?" **(PG. 334)**

WEEK 6: COME HOME

TO READ

BOOK 7: Chapter 3-4 [337-354];

BOOK 9: Chapter 8 [498-506];

BOOK 11: Chapter 9 [638-655]

NOTES

This week, see how God brings light out of three very different kinds of darkness as we read about each Karamazov brothers' moment of grace.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"Alyosha stood, gazed, and suddenly threw himself down on the earth. He did not know why he embraced it. He could not have told why he longed so irresistibly to kiss it, to kiss it all. But he kissed it weeping, sobbing and watering it with his tears, and vowed passionately to love it, to love it for ever and ever. "Water the earth with the tears of your joy and love those tears," echoed in his soul. What was he weeping over?

Oh! in his rapture he was weeping even over those stars, which were shining to him from the abyss of space, and "he was not ashamed of that ecstasy." There seemed to be threads from all those innumerable worlds of God, linking his soul to them, and it was trembling all over "in contact with other worlds." He longed to forgive every one and for everything, and to beg forgiveness. Oh, not for himself, but for all men, for all and for everything. "And others are praying for me too," echoed again in his soul." **(PG. 358)**

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WEEK 6: COME HOME (CONT.)

"I was there when the Word, Who died on the Cross, rose up into heaven bearing on His bosom the soul of the penitent thief. I heard the glad shrieks of the cherubim singing and shouting hosannah and the thunderous rapture of the seraphim which shook heaven and all creation, and I swear to you by all that's sacred, I longed to join the choir and shout hosannah with them all. The word had almost escaped me, had almost broken from my lips ... you know how susceptible and esthetically impressionable I am. But common sense—oh, a most unhappy trait in my character—kept me in due bounds and I let the moment pass!" **(PG. 652)**



WEEK 7: MEMORY ETERNAL

TO READ

BOOK X: Chapter 5 [539-554], Chapter 7 [560-565];
EPILOGUE: Chapter 3 [772-781]

NOTES

To close the Karamazov journey, witness the quiet power of Alyosha's grace as it spreads to Illusha and the schoolboys.

QUOTES FROM THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (HALLOW EDITION)

"'Father, father, come ... we ...' Illusha faltered in violent excitement, but apparently unable to go on, he flung his wasted arms round his father and Kolya, uniting them in one embrace, and hugging them as tightly as he could. The captain suddenly began to shake with dumb sobs, and Kolya's lips and chin twitched.

'Father, don't cry, and when I die get a good boy, another one ... choose one of them all, a good one, call him Illusha and love him instead of me.' **(PG. 562)**

"Boys, my dear boys, let us all be generous and brave like Illusha, clever, brave and generous like Kolya (though he will be ever so much cleverer when he is grown up), and let us all be as modest, as clever and sweet as Kartashov. But why am I talking about those two? You are all dear to me, boys, from this day forth, I have a place in my heart for you all, and I beg you to keep a place in your hearts for me! Well, and who has united us in this kind, good feeling which we shall remember and intend to remember all our lives? Who, if not Illusha, the good boy, the dear boy, precious to us for ever! Let us never forget him. May his memory live for ever in our hearts from this time forth!" **(PG. 780)**

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WEEK 7: MEMORY ETERNAL (CONT.)

"Hurrah for Karamazov!" Kolya shouted ecstatically.

"And may the dead boy's memory live for ever!" Alyosha added again with feeling.
"For ever!" the boys chimed in again.

"Karamazov," cried Kolya, "can it be true what's taught us in religion, that we shall all rise again from the dead and shall live and see each other again, all, Ilusha too?"

"Certainly we shall all rise again, certainly we shall see each other and shall tell each other with joy and gladness all that has happened!" Alyosha answered, half laughing, half enthusiastic.

"Ah, how splendid it will be!" broke from Kolya.

"Well, now we will finish talking and go to his funeral dinner. Don't be put out at our eating pancakes—it's a very old custom and there's something nice in that!" laughed Alyosha. "Well, let us go! And now we go hand in hand."

"And always so, all our lives hand in hand! Hurrah for Karamazov!" Kolya cried once more rapturously, and once more the boys took up his exclamation: "Hurrah for Karamazov!" **(PG. 780)**

100-DAY READING PLAN

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

PRACTICAL NOTES & PACING TIPS

Don't aim for "understanding everything." Aim for staying present.

If a chapter feels heavy, stop early — Dostoevsky rewards attentiveness more than endurance.

Many readers keep one guiding question as they read, such as:

- Who is responsible here?
- What does love look like in this chapter?

KEY

○○ = Read

⊗ = Rest / reflect / catch-up (no new reading)

⊗ *days are not "off days" — they are when the book sinks in.*

DAYS 1–15 BOOK I – II (CH. 1–14)

Introductions, family, spiritual terrain

BOOK I (CH. 1–5)

DAY 1	○○	BOOK I	CH. 1
DAY 2	○○	BOOK I	CH. 2
DAY 3	○○	BOOK I	CH. 3
DAY 4	○○	BOOK I	CH. 4
DAY 5	○○	BOOK I	CH. 5
DAY 6	☀	☀	☀

BOOK II (CH. 6 – 14)

DAY 7	○○	BOOK II	CH. 6
DAY 8	○○	BOOK II	CH. 7
DAY 9	○○	BOOK II	CH. 8
DAY 10	○○	BOOK II	CH. 9
DAY 11	○○	BOOK II	CH. 10
DAY 12	○○	BOOK II	CH. 11
DAY 13	○○	BOOK II	CH. 12
DAY 14	○○	BOOK II	CH. 13–14
DAY 15	☀	☀	☀

DAYS 16 – 30 BOOK III – IV (CH. 15 – 33)

Conflict deepens; conscience and responsibility

BOOK III (CH. 15 – 26)

DAY 16	○○	BOOK III	CH. 15
DAY 17	○○	BOOK III	CH. 16
DAY 18	○○	BOOK III	CH. 17
DAY 19	○○	BOOK III	CH. 18
DAY 20	○○	BOOK III	CH. 19
DAY 21	○○	BOOK III	CH. 20-21
DAY 22	○○	BOOK III	CH. 22-23
DAY 23	☀	☀	☀
DAY 24	○○	BOOK III	CH. 24-25
DAY 25	○○	BOOK III	CH. 26

BOOK IV (CH. 27 – 33)

DAY 26	○○	BOOK IV	CH. 27
DAY 27	○○	BOOK IV	CH. 28
DAY 28	○○	BOOK IV	CH. 29-30
DAY 29	○○	BOOK IV	CH. 31-33
DAY 30	☀	☀	☀

DAYS 31 – 45 BOOK V (CH. 34 – 42)

The intellectual and spiritual center

BOOK V (CH. 34 – 42)

DAY 31	○○	BOOK V	CH. 34
DAY 32	○○	BOOK V	CH. 35
DAY 33	○○	BOOK V	CH. 36
DAY 34	○○	BOOK V	CH. 37
DAY 35	☀	☀	☀
DAY 36	○○	BOOK V	CH. 38
DAY 37	○○	BOOK V	CH. 39
DAY 38	○○	BOOK V	CH. 40
DAY 39	☀	☀	☀
DAY 40	○○	BOOK V	CH. 41
DAY 41	○○	BOOK V	CH. 42
DAY 42-25	☀	☀	☀

Intentional breathing room — many readers need this

DAYS 46 – 55 BOOK VI (CH. 43 – 49)

Elder Zosima: humility, memory, love

BOOK VI (CH. 43 – 49)

DAY 46	○○	BOOK VI	CH. 43
DAY 47	○○	BOOK VI	CH. 44
DAY 48	○○	BOOK VI	CH. 45
DAY 49	○○	BOOK VI	CH. 46
DAY 50	☀	☀	☀
DAY 51	○○	BOOK VI	CH. 47
DAY 52	○○	BOOK VI	CH. 48
DAY 53	○○	BOOK V	CH. 49
DAY 54-55	☀	☀	☀

DAYS 56 – 65 BOOK VII (CH. 50 – 56)

Alyosha tested in the world

BOOK VII (CH. 50 – 56)

DAY 56	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 50
DAY 57	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 51
DAY 58	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 52

DAY 59	❖	❖	❖
DAY 60	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 53
DAY 61	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 54
DAY 62	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 55
DAY 63	○○	BOOK VII	CH. 56
DAY 64-65	❖	❖	❖

DAYS 66 – 80 BOOK VIII – IX (CH. 57 – 72)

Action, consequence, investigation

BOOK VIII (CH. 57 – 67)

DAY 66	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 57
DAY 67	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 58
DAY 68	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 59
DAY 69	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 60
DAY 70	❖	❖	❖
DAY 71	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 61
DAY 72	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 62
DAY 73	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 63-64
DAY 74	○○	BOOK VIII	CH. 65-67

BOOK IX (CH. 68 – 72)

DAY 75	☽	☽	☽
DAY 76	○○	BOOK IX	CH. 68
DAY 77	○○	BOOK IX	CH. 69
DAY 78	○○	BOOK IX	CH. 70
DAY 79	○○	BOOK IX	CH. 71-72
DAY 80	☽	☽	☽

BOOK X – XI (CH. 73 – 84)

Children, memory, Ivan's reckoning

BOOK X (CH. 73 – 79)

DAY 81	○○	BOOK X	CH. 73
DAY 82	○○	BOOK X	CH. 74
DAY 83	○○	BOOK X	CH. 75
DAY 84	☽	☽	☽
DAY 85	○○	BOOK X	CH. 76
DAY 86	○○	BOOK X	CH. 77
DAY 87	○○	BOOK X	CH. 78-79

BOOK XI (CH. 80 – 84)

DAY 88	☽	☽	☽
DAY 89	○○	BOOK XI	CH. 80
DAY 90	○○	BOOK XI	CH. 81
DAY 91	○○	BOOK XI	CH. 82
DAY 92	☽	☽	☽
DAY 93	○○	BOOK XI	CH. 83
DAY 94	○○	BOOK XI	CH. 84
DAY 95	☽	☽	☽

Intentional breathing room — many readers need this

DAYS 96 – 100 BOOK XII + EPILOGUE (CH. 85 – 96)

Judgment, mercy,
and what remains

BOOK XII (CH. 85 – 92)

DAY 96	○○	BOOK X	CH. 73
DAY 97	○○	BOOK X	CH. 74
DAY 98	○○	BOOK X	CH. 75
DAY 99	☽	☽	☽

EPILOGUE (CH. 93 – 96)

DAY 100	○○	EPILOGUE	CH. 93–96
close + reflect			