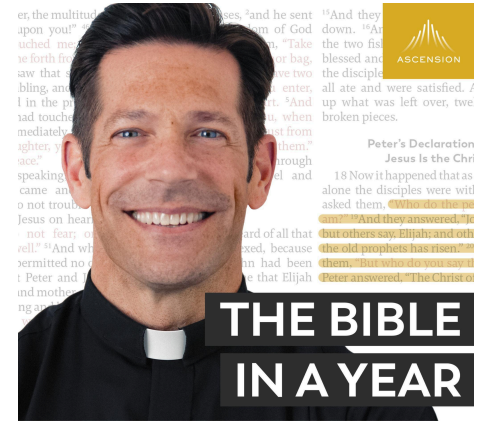


## Updated Fact Sheet: December 2025

### *The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)*® Podcast

- Dominant Apple Podcast Chart positions - see below
- 970 Million All-Time Downloads (since 2021)
- 131 Million 2025 Downloads (podcast + YouTube + apps + Ascension app)
- 380,000 average daily downloads in 2025
- 217,400 Facebook Group members ([link](#))
- 4.8 / 5 Stars on Apple Podcasts with 59,000 ratings



WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ, FEATURING JEFF CAVINS

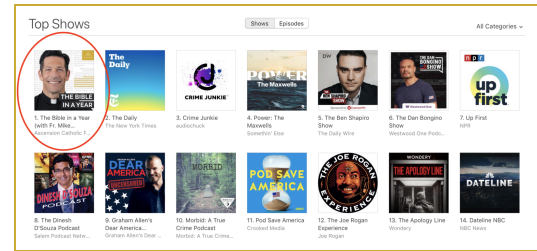
### #1 Global Podcast in Religion & Spirituality (2021 - Present)

- *The Bible in a Year* was the #1 podcast on Apple's Religion & Spirituality chart for the majority of 2021-2025. (Source: Apple Podcasts)
- *The Bible in a Year* has ranked annually on Apple's "Most Shared Shows" Charts since 2022 and was named one of Spotify's "2025 Most Shared Show", receiving more shares than 99% of shows.
- In January of 2022, together with Ascension's 2022 Spanish-language offering *La Biblia en un año* podcast, *The Bible in a Year* topped "Christianity" charts in over [47 countries](#) (Source: Chartable)

## #1 on the Apple Charts - All Categories (Jan 2021 + Jan 2022)

*The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)*<sup>TM</sup> podcast broke the glass ceiling for religious podcasts, topping the Apple Podcasting chart in all categories within 2 days of its January 2021 launch.

- **#1 Podcast in America:** *Bible in a Year* was the #1 podcast in America in all categories from Jan 2 - Jan 18, 2021, knocking out top shows from NPR, *Dateline*, *Crime Junkie*, and more. (Source: Apple Podcasts)
- **Again in 2022:** It achieved the same feat from January 1-7, 2022, again becoming the top podcast on the US Apple charts in all categories. (Source: Apple Podcasts)



## Media Coverage and Awards

- **Outstanding News Coverage:** The fascinating story of a religious podcast topping the US Apple Charts has been picked up internationally by [\*The New York Times Magazine\*](#), [\*The Wall Street Journal\*](#), [\*CBS National News\*](#), [\*The Times \(UK\)\*](#), [\*DailyMail \(UK\)\*](#), [\*CBN\*](#), [\*Fox NY\*](#), and [\*National Review\*](#), as well as receiving coverage in nearly all national US Catholic outlets.



Screen shot: CBS National News, April 2, 2022

- **Award-Winning Production:** *The Bible in a Year* won a [2021 w3 Gold Award](#) (Podcast: General Series - Health and Wellness) as well as the [#1 Award in Religion and Spirituality](#) from The Podcast Awards. The podcast was named a 2022 Silver Winner in “Religion & Spirituality” from the Signal Awards. In 2024 the podcast was named a “Spirituality & Religion” nominee in the [iHeartPodcast Awards](#).
- **Award-Winning Hosts:** Daily host Fr. Mike Schmitz and podcast featured guest Jeff Cavins were together named “[Catholics of the Year](#)” by the national Catholic news outlet *Our Sunday Visitor*, and received the [Cardinal John P. Foley Award](#) for excellence in Catholic storytelling from the Catholic Media Association.

## For Biographical Information about Fr. Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins

- **Bio for Fr. Mike Schmitz:** [Ascension Newsroom](#)
- **Bio for Jeff Cavins:** [Ascension Newsroom](#)
- **Listen to *The Bible in a Year* podcast:** [www.AscensionPress.com/BibleInAYear](http://www.AscensionPress.com/BibleInAYear)

- Listen to *La Biblia en un Año* podcast: [La Biblia en un Año](#)

### End-of-Year Testimonies from “The Bible in a Year” Facebook Group Members

- Finished BIAY! **Greatest feeling of achievement ever!** Most importantly, I feel like I’ve drawn closer to the Lord. It became part of my morning ritual before sunrise and once locked-in it became easier and easier to not waiver and never missed a day even while traveling. I highly recommend.
- **I just finished BIY for the second year in a row!** I have learned so much about how God loves me. Fr. Mike has done an excellent job of explaining the books of the Bible and the way he prays for us every day is so awesome! Thank you, Fr. Mike!
- **I grew up Jewish but somehow felt called to seek Christ.** A few years ago, a friend introduced me to [The Bible in a Year]. I had never read a word of the New Testament before, and it truly changed my life!
- **I’ve just completed BIAY, the most life changing year I can remember.** Before starting, I went thru my mom’s Bible, and found every bookmark she ever used over her lifetime of reading it, and put them in mine to use. (Plus one my son made me over 20 years ago). She has been with me this year, and I think she must have hoped and prayed for this for me throughout her life. Not only do I feel closer to the Lord than ever, but to her as well. We share something now that in her life we never did. Thank you to Fr. Mike, and Ascension for being part of this special reunion. I can’t wait to start again tomorrow. God bless you all.
- And with that, **my 4th time with BIAY is done.** It's always crushing to hear Fr. Mike's voice for the "last time". Such passion for the Word and the need to share it with the world. Can't wait to start again and bonus - my husband will be joining me for the first time! God is so good!!
- To think that 2 years ago, I was sleeping in while my wife was taking our daughters to mass (and our oldest to Prep) no longer makes me sad - because I went from a prodigal protestant to someone who looks forward to receiving the Eucharist. **The Bible in a Year has been a large part of my spiritual journey in the last 15 months.** Thanks to everyone involved in their production.
- I have finally read, listened, and prayed with the Bible in a Year Podcast in a “year” From January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2024, **I have read the Bible more times in the recent 3 years and 364 days compared to the day I received my first communion** as far as I can remember. Thank God. Thank you Ascension team and everyone in the community who supported and prayed for me for Fr. Mike for every listener.

- **As a Catholic convert for over 30 years and being from an evangelical faith group before that...I didn't really know what to expect with this journey.** I had read the Bible and knew scripture, not super well but I was comfortable with the protestant Bible and had been doing the daily Catholic mass readings everyday for quite a while now as well as Divine Office in the morning. However, I had been greatly blessed doing CIAAY the previous year so I started out on the BIAY journey. There were quite a few days of tears streaming down my face as some revelation or other hit me while trundling along with the dog. It was God's blessings arriving right at the perfect time for me in my faith journey.... Thank you to Ascension folk and Fr. Mike and all who make this a wonderful journey. **For anyone contemplating starting this journey, it is well worth it and such a blessing.**
- I started on December 26, 2024. **Instead of listening to running music, I'm now listening to the Bible and saying the rosary while running.** I need this for myself. To 2025 the year of Jubilee and HOPE!
- **Best Bible in the Year program I've done.** This is 3 years and will do again. Learn something new every year, thank you.
- I finished my first trip today! I am so excited to start Genesis again on Wednesday. Thank you so much Father Mike and the entire BIAY community. **The support and the perfect messages on the right days amidst the trials and tribulations have been truly life saving.** Can't wait to see you all and pray with and for you all on round 2!
- I just complete the Bible in a Year. What an AMAZING and emotional journey this was for me. **This was the first time I've ever gone through the bible and Fr. Mike made it make sense.** I looked forward to the time spent reading, listening and taking notes. I made this MY time with God. I found myself taking my Bible with me whenever we were going to be away. May God bless Fr. Mike for continuing to spread God's message. I feel that I will start the New Year with the Bible again.
- I honestly never imagined that I would read the entire Bible. It's something I think we all strive to do in our lives (at one point or another). I'm proud to say that I did it!!! If I said I wasn't emotional during the final minutes of the day 365, I would be lying. So thankful that we received an episode 366 today!!! **This podcast has been such an amazing gift to all of us.** Thank you to Fr. Mike, Jeff Cavins and everyone at Ascension for everything they have done for each of us! You are all truly a blessing and gifts from God. **Tomorrow, I'm beginning year number 2 and my 13 year old son will be joining me.** We are very excited to take this journey together and with all of you!! This isn't the end. It's only the beginning!! And I can't wait!!!
- I cannot say enough positive things about this podcast. I am not Catholic, but I am a Christian. At the beginning of 2024 I wanted to find something

inspirational and educational to listen to while I drove to and from work. My drive to work is about 90 minutes each way. I stumbled upon Bible in a Year. I thought, I'm not Catholic but I do love the bible and I am anxious to understand it better. I'm 60 years old and all my life I have struggled to grasp many of the books of the bible. **This podcast is truly heaven sent.** I am excited to listen to it all again in 2025. The parts that are hard, are so much easier when you are going through them with Father Mike..