

Basics – How to Read the Bible

Discussion Question

What has been your biggest challenge when trying to read the Bible?

Why Read the Bible?

The Bible Is More Than a Book

The Bible is not merely a collection of stories, rules, or religious teachings. It is God's revelation of Himself to humanity.

Key Scriptures

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." — 2 Timothy 3:16

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." — Hebrews 4:12

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

- The Bible is a guide
- The Bible is the standard for discerning truth
- The Bible is the primary way we hear God's voice
- The Bible changes us for the better
- The Bible deepens our relationship and understanding of who God is

Info About the Bible

The Bible is one story pointing to Jesus.

The Bible contains 66 books written by 40+ authors over approximately 1,500 years in 3 languages, yet it tells one unified story:

Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

And Jesus is the center of the story.

It is the most sold book of all time, the most historically documented text of all time, and the most archaeologically corroborated book.

The New Testament has an unparalleled manuscript tradition. With over 5,800 ancient Greek manuscripts, it possesses far more textual support than any other classical work from antiquity. Scholars have been able to reconstruct the original texts with over 99% accuracy.

Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies.

How Do We Read the Bible?

1. Make Prayer a Part of Your Bible Reading

Before reading, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand.

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

Simple Prayer:

"Holy Spirit, help me understand what You want me to see and how You want me to respond."

2. Make a Plan

We plan what we prioritize.

Pick the time of day, Bible plan or study, and location.

Every season is different. Make a plan that works for the season you are in.

3. Make It a Daily Rhythm

Small amounts consistently are better than large amounts occasionally.

“Blessed is the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night.” — Psalm 1:2

Consistency is more important than intensity.

4. Keep It Fun

Study topics that are already on your heart.

Try a different Bible translation.

Get a journal and some pens.

5. Don't Read to Complete — Read to Encounter God

Our goal is not to check a box but to be transformed by encountering the God of the Bible.

“When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight...” — Jeremiah 15:16 (NLT)

6. Read to Understand Before You Apply

- Who wrote this?
- Who was it written to?
- What is happening in the passage?
- What comes before and after it?
- What does it say?
- What does it mean?

When you can answer these questions, begin asking God how to apply it to your life.

7. Pay Attention to What Stands Out

The Holy Spirit often highlights something. When this happens, ask Him why it is standing out.

A Simple Bible Reading Method

Use the S.O.A.P. Method

S – Scripture

Write down a verse that stands out.

O – Observation

What do you notice?

What is God saying?

A – Application

How should this change my life?

P – Prayer

Respond to God in prayer.

Practice Passages

Matthew 6:25–34

Philippians 4:4–9

John 15:1–17

Romans 12:1–2

Reflection Question

What is one practical change you can make this week that will help you read the Bible more?