

WAYS TO HELP US READ THE BIBLE REGULARLY

There are different ways the Bible can be read. It is a collection of 66 books with different sorts of writing in different books. If we want to grow closer to God it is good to get into the habit of regular Bible reading with prayer. These times allow God to speak to us and hopefully provide a focus for the day.

We can pray "Give us today our Daily Bread" but often do not know where to start. If you've started and got stuck now what? Some people just read the Bible "straight" as it were, but many find it helps to have some sort of Bible help booklet/ commentary/ special Bible with explanations as these help put things in context and give clues with understanding, thinking, praying and applying it to their lives each day.



Some find Bible Notes help with reading the Bible – they give a bit of background, explanation, help think about and apply the passage and will suggest things to pray around. There is such a huge variety of material available it is hard to know where to begin. Below are some ideas which are available on eden.co.uk scripture union.org.uk or amazon.co.uk or any Christian bookshop- the nearest is in Gitana Street, Hanley. You can take out subscriptions so your favourite is posted out to you regularly or some resources are also available on-line eg Word Live

On Alpha we gave out: "30 Days" by Nicky Gumbel and you might have taken one of the booklets of notes for new Christians:

- Every Day with Jesus for new Christians by Selwyn Hughes
- Travelling Through Life Every Day - for new Christians, First Steps in the Christian Faith, by Jeff Lucas.
- Or Inspiring Women Every Day– for new Christians

There are series of daily readings similar to these usually produced quarterly. Try 2/3 different types to see which style suits you best they are all slightly different and its Ok to change about too. It is not one size fits all or one type for life- we are all different. These three were published by CWR. It is easier to group helps by publishers so:

CWR Produce quarterly daily notes:

- Every Day with Jesus,
- Life Every Day (Jeff Lucas),
- Cover to Cover Every Day (more chronological through books and characters)
- Inspiring Women,
- or The Manual for men

More details at <http://www.cwr.org.uk/store/t-subst.aspx>

Scripture Union Produce quarterly notes:

- Daily Bread
- Closer to God
- Encounter God for adults

More details at

<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Shop/Biblereadingguides/Biblereadingforadults/164868.id>

ONLINE you can register with Word Live (by Scripture Union): www.wordlive.org

for online readings by e-mail or to your phone via their app and you also can download podcasts

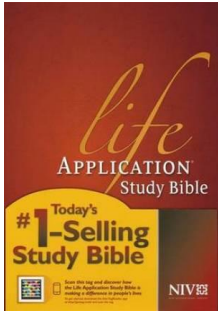
Some resources cover an overview of the whole Bible in a series of daily readings over a year:

- E100 by Whitney T Kuniholm also published by Scripture Union and are very good
"Essential Jesus" is 100 readings and notes based on Jesus life in a book
or "Essential 100" is a journey through the bible in 100 readings going through both Old and New Testament
- The Message SOLO New Testament Pink: An Uncommon Devotional (NavPress Devotional Readers) is available inline at Amazon or Eden and based on the very modern message translation
- Cover to Cover by Selwyn Hughes and Jonathan Partridge (CWR) goes through the Bible as it happened

BIBLES

You will need a good modern version of the Bible to read with the notes. There are many around, but the most widely used reliable up-to-date version is the New International Version (updated 2011)- we gave you one of these on Alpha. You can also easily compare translations or download parts of the Bible online at www.biblegateway.com

If you want to get a Bible with some explanatory notes, maps and background beside the text the “Life Application Study Bible” NIV is very good and helps relate the Bible personally to daily life in an accessible way. It is just over £20 at Eden but a great investment to help you.



<http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/life-application-study-bible-4278744.html>

If you want more help, then just ask. This isn't a commercial –reading the Bible regularly is as basic to our spiritual health as bread for life –and bread doesn't have to be boring!

BIBLE ON PHONE OR TABLET Download a FREE app for your phone/ tablet from Google playstore:

We recommend The Bible app (YouVersion) published by Life.Church is also very good and gives you both lots of versions of the Bible online or offline and also lots of themed reading plans and ideas and can be used wherever you are!

Or “Bible in a Year” app by HTB (Nicky Gumbel) will take you through the whole Bible in a year or so,

ON YOUR COMPUTER We recommend biblegateway.com as a great way to search for verses and see different translations

BIBLE READING

Is a great habit to get into and you can start by just taking a few minutes each day. You'll develop your own pattern, but here's a suggestion:

1. Ask God to speak to you.
2. Read the Bible passage.
3. Read the notes
4. Pray –one simple pattern is Thank you, Sorry, Please

Don't beat yourself up with guilt if you miss a day -just pick up where you left off next time. It's better to do something than nothing and a great way to get to know God better.

FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

There are also a huge variety of notes for children, young people and families designed for age specific groups from very similar publishers as the adult material- these include

For Secondary Age : YPs, One Up, Submerge, Mettle, Bible in a year from Soul Survivor

For Primary Age: Snapshots, Topz, Join In-Jump On, XTB etc

For Pre-Schoolers: Parents try a Toddler Bible or The Lion Story-Teller Bible comes with a CD and is fab.

For Families: Messy Lyfe from Messy Church or Table Talk