

more to be

10 IDEAS FOR GETTING INTO THE WORD

Did you know that you could read the entire Bible in 40 hours? Sure, that's doable, but not ideal! Even so, you might be wondering what's the point, right? Simply put, the Bible is God's handbook for living. It helps us know God better, understand our own nature, and make wise decisions. So how about setting aside 15 minutes a day for daily Bible reading?

There are a number of different ways to read Scripture, but regardless of what technique you choose, you can use any of the following methods to engage with the Word.

Make Your Bible Your Own

A Bible is a sacred book, but it is meant to be used and well-loved. Grab a pencil, pen, or highlighter to mark up verses that stand out to you. Don't hesitate to circle key words, jot down questions, or scribble prayers in the margins.

Use a Notebook or Journal

Record verses that stand out to you as well as key points in the passage. You may also choose to write down your prayers, as a way of keeping an ongoing conversation with the Lord each time you read Scripture. For more in-depth study, record the following each time you read Scripture:

- What is something familiar in this passage?
- What is something new in this passage?
- How does God want me to apply this to my life?

Memorize Scripture

The easiest way is to use index cards, especially the spiral bound kind, and write down a verse to concentrate on for a time. Refer back to your index cards again and again, until you have it memorized.

Never Give Up

If you miss a day, pick up where you left off. Also, quantity doesn't matter as much as quality. Invest your heart and mind, even into three verses, instead of rushing through to get it done. And if it takes three years, starting and stopping, to get through the Bible cover to cover, it is still worth it. Settle into a long term, preserving commitment!

Now choose one of these techniques, or a combination that works for you, to make God's Word an everyday part of your life.

- 1. Daily, Book by Book**
Pick a book in the Bible and read one chapter a day until you finish the book. If you miss a day, pick up where you left off. Consider each chapter in context of the whole book and Bible. When you finish a book, pick another.
- 2. Yearly, the Whole Bible**
Read the Bible in a year using a reading plan that brings you through the Old Testament, New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms each day. See www.oneyearbibleonline.com.
- 3. Chronologically, the Whole Bible**
Read the Bible in a year in the order it occurred! See www.oneyearbibleonline.com.
- 4. Thematically**
The Bible is filled with themes of every kind. Love, hate, jealousy, rage, bitterness, greed, unforgiveness, marriage, parents, children, work. Pick a key word and search a concordance or www.biblegateway.com to read all the related Scriptures. Select a Bible study or commentary to help you along.
- 5. Prayerfully**
Prayers abound in Scripture, especially in the Psalms. Turn them into your own by inserting your name (or others) where appropriate.
- 6. Intellectually**
Read the Bible to transform your mind! Use an inductive Bible study, a Hebrew-Greek Bible, or commentaries to challenge understanding of God and His Word.
- 7. Practically**
The Bible isn't just a book of inspirational words. It is meant to be lived out. Read it to learn how to live!
- 8. Devotionally**
Read the Word to grow your heart of worship by using devotionals, written by Christians, to help you cultivate a heart that praises God. Expand on the Scripture references in a devotional book by studying it in context of the chapter in the Bible that it comes from.
- 9. Relationally**
Pick a man or woman in Scripture and study all the Scriptures that pertain to that person, as well as their relationships with others and God. Take note of their character, sin, consequences, and blessings from God.
- 10. Inquisitively**
Ask who, what, where, why, when, and how as you read Scripture, making special notes of dates, places, events, people, and common themes. Ask questions and seek God for the answers, in His Word. Don't hesitate to seek the help and wisdom of scholars and Christians friends and mentors, however.