

# Helpful Tips for Studying the Bible

**Start with Prayer.** Ask the Lord to teach you through His Word (Psalm 119:18). Ask Him to give you a hunger and desire to be in the Word, and perseverance to be faithful even when you're busy.

**Read & Re-read the Passage.** The importance of reading is obvious. How can we study something that we haven't read?

- Read out loud with emphasis and expression. This way you won't be skipping any words, and it can also help to keep your mind from drifting while you read.
- Insert your name and/or personal pronouns as you read.
- Read it in context. It can be easy to misinterpret Scripture simply by reading one verse. Read the text around it to help explain why that particular verse says what it does.

**Ask LOTS of Questions.** Ask questions about the passage, both simple and complex. Writing out simple questions with their answers from the text helps you to retain the passage. Asking complex questions encourages you to dig deeper in the Word for the answers.

- Who? What? When? When? Where? Why? How? Etc.
- Who wrote this passage? What happened in the passage? When was this passage written? Where did it happen? Why was it written? How did it happen? What does the passage say about God/Jesus/man? Are there commands for me to obey? Are there sins for me to avoid? Are there any examples for me to follow? Are there any promises to claim? How do I apply this to my life?

**Mark Up the Passage.** Print out the passage that you are studying and mark it up. Using highlighters, mark up key words, important phrases, repeated words/phrases, commands, attributes of God, etc. You can also use the blank space on the paper to make notes as you study: questions/answers, word study definitions, etc.

**Use Cross References.** Cross references are verses that are similar or related to the verse you are reading and are located in the margins in your Bible. This is a great way to study Scripture as you can learn more about a particular subject through cross references. Allow Scripture to interpret Scripture!

**Do a Word Study.** Pick a couple of key words from the passage and study them. Look it up in the dictionary. Learn the original Hebrew or Greek meaning of the word. Understanding what the words mean helps us to comprehend what the passage is saying. Use a concordance to see how these key words appear in other places in Scripture.

**Recommended Bible Study Tools:** Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Believer's Bible Commentary

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# Bible Reading Commitment

<b>MY GOAL:</b> <input type="radio"/> 5 minutes a day <input type="radio"/> 15 minutes a day <input type="radio"/> 1 chapter a day <input type="radio"/> 2 chapters a day (1 in OT; 1 in NT) <input type="radio"/> The whole Bible in a year <input type="radio"/> Other: _____	<b>I PLAN TO DO THIS FOR:</b> <input type="radio"/> 1 week <input type="radio"/> 1 month <input type="radio"/> 1 year <input type="radio"/> Other: _____
<b>TIME:</b> <input type="radio"/> First thing in the morning <input type="radio"/> Right before bed <input type="radio"/> Morning and evening <input type="radio"/> Other: _____	<b>PLACE:</b> <input type="radio"/> My room <input type="radio"/> Other: _____

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bible Reading Plan Ideas

**Read through the Bible in one year.** Many Bibles have a chart with this type of reading plan with OT and NT passages to read each day. Or you can simply start in Genesis and read 4 chapters a day to finish in a year.

**Read through Proverbs (or another Bible book) in one month.** Read the chapter corresponding with the day's date (Jan 1 read chap. 1, Jan. 2 read chap. 2, etc.).

**Read one chapter, passage, or short book every day for a month.** Reading the same thing each day helps you to study and absorb it more. This is best done on a weekly or monthly basis so that you don't neglect the rest of the Word.

**Read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John).** Learn more about our Savior, Jesus Christ, through reading the gospels.

**Read through the New Testament.** Read one chapter every day until you finish the New Testament (or set a another goal/time frame for reading through it).

**Read a Psalm or chapter of Proverbs each night before you go to sleep.** Reading the Bible before bed helps to focus your mind on the Lord and meditate on His Word.

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