

Bible Basics – How to Read the Bible

Overview

During the past few months we have been learning the basics of the bible. It is now time to put them to work.

Bible tools and helpful aids

Besides your own Bible, there are several tools or helpful aids, which can enhance your understanding and reading of the Bible. Most Bibles have some explanatory footnotes to help but here are some of your other options.

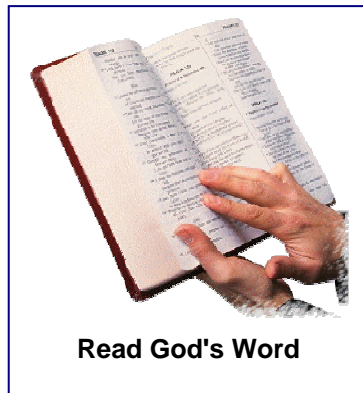
- **Commentaries:** These are very helpful in that they comment or explain the meanings and important messages of the text.
- **Concordance:** This provides a listing of the words with a cross reference to verses in the Bible and a phrase to help identify its meaning.
- **Bible dictionary or encyclopedia:** These are very helpful as a quick reference for something you have read and need some more information.
- **Bible study aids:** Today there is a wealth of these available – books, CD's and audio - but just take care to make certain it is Catholic – or you may get the wrong message.

Finally, how does one read the Bible?

The Bible is not like a book that must be started at the beginning.

Certainly, there is a theme, especially in the first 5 books – the Pentateuch. Some bookstores offer study guides and you can find some which will

take you through the Bible in a year. One should have read the entire Bible at least once – with the intent to read all of it.



Personally, I would suggest a plan as follows reading a few chapters each day:

1. Read all of the Pentateuch first
2. Next, read all four of the Gospels - together.
3. I would then return to the Old Testament, reading the next book (Joshua)
4. Alternate with the next New Testament book (Acts) and go back and forth with the Old and New Testaments and so on.
5. I would further suggest reading as many of the Prophets at together.
6. Finally, I would save the Psalms for weekly fill in reading, as they are the poetry in the Bible. Note that the Psalms are almost in the center of your bible making them easy to find – and I further recommend Bible tabs to help in finding books easily.
7. If you do this every day – reading several chapters – you can easily read the entire Bible in several months.

God's word is for you and for today

Reading your Bible, you must keep in mind that the Bible is God's word is for you and for today. Reading can only be valuable to you if you grow in truth through reading.

We may not see Christ's Second Coming as happening tonight but an understanding, related to your own existence or life-situation is aided by faithful Bible reading. Reading the inspired literature should challenge you to go on with a faithful search for meaning in your own personal situation – and to pass it on.

It is now up to you! We have only scratched the surface but we have given you some basics and other reference material to work with. Investigate these other sources to further your information and you will soon find out that the Bible is crystal clear – a joy to read and fully understandable.

God bless you and good reading...