

READING THE BIBLE REGULARLY

The Bible is a beautifully complex library of ancient books, historical accounts, prophecies, poems, stories and parables. The insights and ideas inside can radically change the way you think, feel and live. But reading such a unique book in a regular way requires a deliberate approach and disciplined routine.

In a busy world, finding time for things we feel are important can be difficult, so here are a few ideas to help you develop a habit of reading the Bible regularly.

Establish a Routine

- 1) *Set a Time:* Choose a time in your daily routine to relax and read. For some it's first thing in the morning or before bed, for others it's while on a lunch break or on a commute. It's about choosing a time you know you can commit to each and every day, especially as you develop the routine.
- 2) *Have a Plan:* Set a goal about which parts of the Bible and how much you'd like to read over a specific period of time. Or choose a specific reading plan as a guide to help keep you on track. Here are some suggested reading plans: [Bible Gateway](#), [Back to the Bible](#), or [YouVersion](#).

Choose a Method & Translation

- 1) *What will you actually use to read?*
 - Hardcopy: If you don't have a Bible of your own, pick one up free at our Welcome Centre.
 - Online: www.biblegateway.com
 - Mobile Apps: Bible (Life.Church) or Bible Gateway (HarperCollins)
 - Audio Bible: www.biblegateway.com (and App) has full audio versions available
- 2) *Recommended Translations:*
 - New International Version (NIV): most commonly used
 - New Living Translation (NLT): very common and uses more everyday language
 - English Standard Version (ESV): commonly used, focuses on word-for-word translation
 - The Message (MSG): modern paraphrase with a more poetic feel
 - The Voice (VOICE): a more dramatic script-like approach

**Another helpful way to gain more understanding of a word or phrase is to look up the same passage in other translations. Alternate wording can help provide a better idea of what is being said.*

Just Keep Reading

- 1) *Set Realistic Expectations:*

When it comes to reading the Bible regularly or following a reading plan, you will miss a day here and there. Don't get discouraged, just catch up as you can. Or try a reading plan that only requires reading 5/6 days a week so you have space for catch up.

Also, you will not understand everything you read. Experts and scholars who dedicate their lives to studying the Bible don't understand all they read either, but they do keep growing, and so will you. You *can* expect that in reading the Bible regularly you will get to know more about God's story, who he really is, the unique way he invites us to live, and his great love for you.

- 2) *Pray:*

Before you read, try taking a moment to relax and pray an honest prayer, maybe something like this:

"God, thank you for an opportunity to get to know you more as I read the Bible. Help me to understand, and give me patience for what I will not understand. Help me to trust that your Spirit is with me and helping me to read and receive what you have for me today."