



DRAW NEAR

SCRIPTURE READING PLAN

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Reading and interpreting the Bible is one of the most important practices in the Christian life—but it's also one that requires care, humility, and wisdom. Without sound methods, we risk misusing Scripture—twisting verses to fit our preferences, ignoring the context, or reading our assumptions into the text. Common pitfalls include cherry-picking verses, over-spiritualizing everything, reading it like a self-help manual, or treating it like a puzzle to decode.

TIPS FOR READING:

- Find the original meaning (“authorial intent”)
- Let scripture speak for itself. Don't import your meaning onto the passage
- Understand the context. (chapter, book, bible)
- Let the bible interpret the bible. It doesn't contradict itself so let the clear interpret the unclear
- Pay attention to genre (e.g. narrative, poetry, laws)
- Remember that Jesus is the hero of every page
- Read with humility
- Read in community
- Use all the tools (commentary, dictionaries)
- Read slowly!



WHY READ OUR BIBLES?

We live in a world that is constantly shaping us. Every day, through media, advertising, social norms, and cultural narratives, we are being sold a vision of identity, purpose, and the so-called “good life.” These messages are powerful—and often at odds with the way of Jesus. That’s why we need deep, intentional, counter-formational practices that anchor us in God’s story and form us into Christlikeness.

At the center of these practices is the regular reading of Scripture, especially when paired with prayer. Scripture reading is the keystone habit of spiritual formation—it recalibrates our hearts, renews our minds, and roots us in the truth.

The Bible is not just an ancient book; it is the living Word of God. It is our source of truth, the final authority on all matters of faith and life, and our daily guide as we seek to follow Jesus in a world pulling us in every other direction.

We read the bible because:

- by it we resist conforming to the world and are transformed in Christ’s likeness (Rom 12:1-2)
- it’s how we grow in our faith (1 Pet 2:2)
- it equips us for serving God (2 Tim 3:16)
- it helps us resist temptation (Ps. 119:11)



THE BIBLE & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Psalm 1 paints a beautiful picture of a spiritually flourishing life. As the introduction to the Psalter, it not only shows us the results of a life built on the foundation of God's Word, but also teaches us *how* to read it. If you desire a resilient, fruitful faith, you must meditate on God's Word, putting down deep roots into the source of living water.

Jesus uses a similar metaphor—the vine and the branches—to express this same truth: we must remain in him, and his word must remain in us, if we are to bear fruit.

The Bible is where we most clearly hear the voice of God. As Paul writes, it is “God-breathed” (2 Tim 3:16). The words on the pages of your bible are God's words to you. When you open your bible God speaks to you!

Jesus reminds us that our spiritual sustenance comes from ‘feeding’ on the word of God (Matt 4:4). We cannot expect to grow in our faith while we neglect to role that scripture plays in our formation.

We should let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Col 3:16).



S.O.A.P METHOD

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Psalm 119:18

1) SCRIPTURE

Find the reading in your reading plan. Pray and ask the Spirit to transform you. Read slowly and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write it in your journal.

3) APPLY

How do you need to apply what you've read to your life? The purpose of scripture reading is formation! The Apostle James reminds us to be 'doers' of the word! What do you need to change? Be reminded of? Do more/less?

2) OBSERVATION

What do you notice about the passage? What does it mean? What is the context? You could use the 4 Questions: Who is God? What has He done? Who am I? What do I do? Write down all the observations you notice about this text.

4) PRAY

Turn your application into prayer. Remember prayer is more than requests. You might praise Him, thank Him, repent, lament, confess, or petition Him. Ask the Spirit to help you walk in obedience.



S.O.A.P EXAMPLE

DATE: January 2, 2025

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 2

1) SCRIPTURE

The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven...

2) OBSERVATION

Nehemiah must have prayed very briefly. He wouldn't have had much time between the question and his answer. This is a quick in the moment plea for help. Nehemiah is obviously fearful but is driven by the plight of his people and the promises of God. He prays for courage to ask a bold request! Nehemiah's prayer life wasn't confined to scheduled times of prayer. He walked closely with God and talked to him through out his day!

3) APPLICATION

This "in-the-moment" prayer reflects a communion and dependence on God that I wish I had more of. I need to get better at practicing the presence of God, acknowledging His nearness, and praying in the moments of my day I need help..

4) PRAYER

God, please help me to walk closer to you in the moments of my day. Forgive me for neglecting you in my busyness. Teach me what dependence looks like in the moments and opportunities of my day. Help me to be a better in-the-moment pray-er!



JOHNS GOSPEL

WEEK 1

- 1:1-18 1:19-34 1:35-51 2:1-12 2:13-25

WEEK 2

- 3:1-21 3:22-36 4:1-26 4:27-42 4:43-54

WEEK 3

- 5:1-18 5:19-47 6:1-21 6:22-40 6:41-71

WEEK 4

- 7:1-24 7:25-52 8:1-30 8:31-59 9:1-41

WEEK 5

- 10:1-21 10:22-42 11:1-37 11:38-57 12:1-19

WEEK 6

- 12:20-50 13:1-30 13:31-38 14:1-14 14:15-31

WEEK 7

- 15:1-17 15:18-16:15 16:16-33 17:1-26 18:1-27

WEEK 8

- 18:28-19:16 19:17-37 19:38-42 20:1-29 20:30-21:25

*This plan mostly follows the ESV chapter headings and divisions.



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