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Ministry Resources Hub

Reading God's Word

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Reading God's Word

Reading God's Word can make a big impact on your life.

What we are talking about here is not simply reading for the sake of reading. You want to read so that you might experience the “priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus My Lord, and of becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him” (Philippians 3:8, Amplified).

The purpose for reading God's Word is to change your life!

The Scriptures were not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.

D. L. Moody

How To Get Started

With that in mind, it is important to remember that when you are reading the Bible, it's best to read it slowly and thoughtfully. Highlight key verses. Reading is more than “just reading” ... you need to think as well! “Reading” is not as intense as “studying”, but you are doing it with the intention of gaining something from it!

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipping for every good thing God wants us to do” —2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT

Make your reading enjoyable! Go on a “hunt” to find promises God has for you. This is especially easy if you are using an online resource like this App. You can simply type in a key word and off you go! Record the references so you can refer back to them later.

Many people find it helpful to keep a journal. You can record what you are reading and learning from the Bible as well as any other insights God gives you about your relationship with Him, how He is working in your life, and what He is doing in and through you. A journal can be a great reminder of God's blessings and strength!

If this is your first adventure in reading the Bible, it can be easier to start in the New Testament, reading at least one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). Many teachers recommend starting with John. The book of Acts tells about the actions of the early Christians. Acts is a “must read” for all Christians. After Acts, you’ll find the letters to the first Christian churches, which give instructions and guidance for daily living. And finally, in the book of Revelation, you will see how Christ is going to end all things in this world and begin ruling as “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

One way to read the Bible is to simply open it and read whatever is in front of you. You can definitely gain from this approach. But being a little more systematic will be more beneficial to you in the long run. If you can actually write down some of what you are reading and thinking, that can also be valuable.

Start your reading time with two sheets of paper. On one you write down the things God is teaching you as you read, and on the second you jot down the inevitable things that come to mind that you need to attend to. That will allow you to stay focused.

There is no pressure. Simply read until God shows you something, then stop and think.

Ask Yourself Questions

As you read, ask yourself questions, and answer them!

- What does this mean?
- What caused this situation?
- Why did God include this?
- Why is this important?
- Is this really true?
- What difference does knowing this make?
- What action should I take?
- What am I missing?
- What can I claim for myself?
- Am I really trusting God?

Use the R.E.C.A.P. Bible study method to ask key questions while reading a Bible passage:

R— Is there **revelation** about God that I should embrace?

E — Is there an **example** I should follow or avoid?

C— Is there a **command** I should obey?

A— Is there something I need to **apply** to my life?

P— Is there a **promise** I should claim?

Highlight Bible passages and code them with a R.E.C.A.P. letter for future review in Bible notes

Talk To God

Talk to the Lord about what you read and make some notes. When you start to read God's Word on a regular basis, you will find yourself growing in your relationship with your Heavenly Father!

As you read, talk to God about everything you are thinking. Cultivate the sense of His presence and His love. Worship Him. Thank Him for what you are reading and learning and thinking and experiencing. Give Him your intense attention and concentration Praise Him.

Decide On A Daily Plan

Many people find it helpful to have a daily reading program helps them read steadily through the entire Bible in a systematic way. There are many plans available!

Instead of starting in Genesis and reading straight through all the other books, some people find it more interesting to read in different places each day. Read as much or as little as you wish each time. Remember, you are reading for understanding and with the intent of getting to know God better.

There is no pressure. Simply read until God shows you something, then stop and think. Talk to the Lord about it and make some notes. Each day jot down the chapters that you read and then you will know where to start the next time. Modify the plan to suit your needs.

You can use the daily reading plan in Today's Inspiration. Every day it selects a chapter from the Old Testament, one from the Gospels, and one from the Epistles.

Whatever method you choose to use, get started! When you start to read God's Word on a regular basis, you will find yourself growing in your relationship with your Heavenly Father!