

Suggestions for getting the most out of

## Bible Reading



We all learn in different ways. Below are some suggestions for getting the most out of your reading of the Bible. Just as importantly, the Bible is God's Word, and it should have meaning and influence in our lives, so make it count.



### Set aside time.

This means setting aside time in your routine for reading, and then subsequent meditation, research, prayer, etc. Make it part of your routine. Put it in your diary. If you think it is important, you will give it the same priority as getting to a doctor's appointment, business meeting, or other commitment.



### Pray for understanding.

We don't know it all ... but God does, so ask for His help. "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned ... What man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God." (1 Corinthians 2:14,11)



### Read a portion of the Bible.

This might be a verse, passage, chapter, or whole book. Once finished, re-read the same portion, because you will often pick up things you missed the first time. You could use the same version, or a different one.



### Make notes.

Jot down notes about what has impacted you, or about something you didn't understand and would like to follow up later.



### Listen to an audio recording of the same portion.

A combination of reading and listening to the Bible being read will help to reinforce the portion, and highlight verses, etc. that we may not otherwise have noticed.

God  
"You  
e gar-  
ledge  
at, for  
shall  
/ 2 & C.  
5:1 rev  
is not  
me; "I  
him."  
o God  
l and  
ought  
would  
called  
name.

17:10-15; 11:17  
Rom. 6:23;  
James 1:15  
18<sup>th</sup> 1 Cor. 11:9;  
1 Tim. 2:13  
19<sup>th</sup> ch. 1:20, 24  
Pps. 8:6  
21<sup>st</sup> ch. 15:12;  
1 Sam. 26:12  
23<sup>rd</sup> ch. 29:14; Judg.  
9:2; 2 Sam. 5:1;  
19:13; [Eph. 5:28-  
30] 1 Cor. 11:8  
24<sup>th</sup> Creed Matt.  
19:5; Mark 10:7;  
1 Cor. 6:16; Eph.  
5:31; [Psa. 45:10;  
1 Cor 7:10, 11]  
Chapter 3  
1<sup>st</sup> Matt. 10:16;  
2 Cor. 11:3; Rev.  
12:9; 20:2  
3<sup>rd</sup> ch. 2:17  
4<sup>th</sup> ver. 13; John  
8:44; 12 Cor. 11:31

wor  
God  
your  
be li  
"So  
was  
delig  
was  
she  
also  
was  
eyes  
knev  
sewe  
then  
8:7

### Read any Bible passages that you think are related to the portion.

Some of these are provided in the worksheet. Many Bibles have footnotes or margin notes cross referencing related verses. A concordance, or the "search" function on your electronic device, should also help.



### Meditate upon the Bible portion.

"I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways." (Psalm 119:15)  
Take time to think about what you have just read. It may mean thinking about the implications of what you have read. This may also come in the form of simply summarising the portion in words that make sense to you.

**For further study:**

*Attempt one or more of the following tasks to enhance your understanding and appreciation of the main subjects covered in the readings above.*



**Attempt the tasks "For Further Study".**

The "For Further Study" tasks are designed to help you delve beyond the initial reading stage of the portion you have just read.



**Memorise particular verses or concepts.**

The best way to do this is regularly and frequently. This can be done as part of the time you set aside for reading and study. It will also help to try and recall verses at various times and in different situations; for example: whilst waiting in a queue, or on hold on the telephone, or travelling on a bus, etc., etc. As a general rule, if you can recall what you want to recall first time, every time, at any time, you probably know it; if you can't, you probably don't.



**Read and/or listen to related Bible commentaries.**

Whilst not being perfect, many Christian writers and speakers are able to shed some light on a passage with which you are having difficulty. Available in book form, on websites and as audio recordings.



**Discuss verses and passages with other people.**

Christians sometimes see the same portions of Scripture differently. Others may have observed something you didn't see the first time. Even when differences of opinion arise, discussing the Bible with an open mind and a humble attitude can be extremely beneficial.



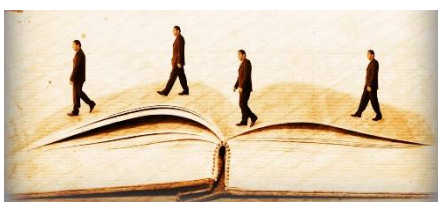
**Teach other people what you have read or learnt.**

There may be opportunities - formal or informal - to teach others what you have learnt. This is a good way to solidify things you want to learn in words that you understand yourself, because you have to be able to express it to others.



**Pray about anything you have read that has made an impact upon you.**

Discuss your thoughts about the Bible portion with God.



**Act upon any lessons you have learnt from your reading.**

Our reading of the Bible can be just an academic exercise if we fail to apply its teachings and principles to our lives. Of course, you should rightly divide, so that you don't take an instruction not intended for you. Simply put, Bible study and our daily living should not be two separate things.