

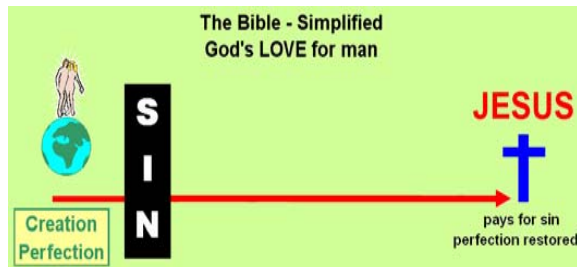
Beginning to read the Bible seems a big project at first. The Bible is a large book (actually 66 books) and reading it all takes time and persistence. This is a suggested Beginners Bible Reading plan. It aims to enable you to understand quickly the main Christian beliefs.

What is more important in this life than hearing from God personally?



What's the Bible all about?

The Bible is about God's great love for man. God created man to live forever with Him. But because of sin, everything was ruined. God sent Jesus into the world to pay for our sin so that we can be restored to God and live with Him forever.



Reading the Bible for yourself will greatly help you understand what is true and what is not. Many false claims about the Bible get circulated by people who are ignorant or worse, people who will deliberately mislead you for their own purpose. If you have done some reading for yourself, then you are considerably protected against such errors.



What Bible Translation should I use?

Given that you are reading this page, it is best to use one of the many simpler translations that are available in English. We suggest the *New Living Translation*, but other simple ones like *The Good News* and the *New International Version* are satisfactory.

Literal translations like the *New King James* and the *New American Standard Bible* are technically more accurate, however the reader must understand a higher grade of English plus be familiar with the idioms used in the original languages. If you are unsure, stick to the simpler translations, or better still, read both types.

Someone is bound to ask "What about the old *King James Bible (Authorised Version)* that was passed down to me by my great, great, grandmother?" Well, the King James Bible was a truly magnificent translation for that period, but you will be much better served with a newer translation.

We hope this helps you.
Please let us know if you have any question on Bible Reading.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BIBLE READING



Congratulations on your desire to read the Bible for yourself. Countless Christians have found that the most common way God speaks with them is directly via His Word, the Bible. If your heart's desire is to genuinely seek God then you will surely find that He speaks to you also.

We suggest that you pray before and after you read the Bible asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you His Word.

A Beginners Bible Reading Plan

First, read the first 3 chapters in the Bible, *Genesis* chapters 1, 2, 3. This is the story of:

- God's creation of the world.
- Everything was beautiful and perfect.
- Adam and Eve sinned, that is they rebelled against God and ruined everything.

This gives understanding of why we need Jesus, namely to fix the problem of sin and restore everything to perfection.

Second, move straight to the story of Jesus. The New Testament part of the Bible (the last 25% of the Bible) begins with 4 biographies of the life of Jesus. These are called gospels and were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

- Matthew emphasises the fact that Jesus is the Jewish King and has come in fulfilment of all the Old Testament Scriptures.
- Mark emphasises that Jesus came to serve mankind and to suffer.
- Luke (a medical Doctor) emphasises the fact that Jesus was totally human.
- John emphasises the fact that Jesus is God.

Read all of Mark, that is, 16 chapters. Mark is the shortest gospel. It will give you a good understanding of the life of Jesus.

Next, read Matthew chapters 5, 6, 7. This is commonly called The Sermon on the Mount. In these chapters, Jesus teaches how people should live on earth and the correct heart attitudes that we all should have.

Next, the gospel of John with 21 chapters. John's gospel was written particularly for the reader to understand that Jesus is God, and that the reader may have eternal life.

Next, the book of Romans. This is the 6th book in the New Testament. It's all about the great problem of sin and how Jesus fixes it for people of all nationalities.

