

How to Read the Bible 2020

If you like to read a book:

- Find a bible with a modern translation – any of these are good: NIV, NLT, NRSV, CEV, Good News.
- Don't start at the beginning and work through to the end!
- Instead, start off reading the Gospels – telling of Jesus life...i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke or John – Mark is the shortest and so often a good place to start.
- Try either reading one of the gospels as you would a novel...or what is often more helpful is to take a small chunk each day – maybe 10-15 verses - or a few paragraphs covering one event.
- Most people find it helpful to have some **Bible Reading notes** to help explain some of the parts that are very particular to the culture of the times when that book of the bible was written.
- You can get booklets for a couple of months at a time, (UCB offer a free one 'Word for Today', or titles like 'Every Day with Jesus'; or 'Daily Bread' from St Matthias, or from a Christian bookshop. But, a good place to start is the **Alpha publication '30 days'**.

If you'd like to try something on line:

- You can see what the different translations are like by looking on line www.biblegateway.com (and you can use this as a free online bible too of course)
- Try the **YouVersion app** for free bible download to your phone/tablet

If you'd like to guidance notes to help you as you read:

- The free email-a -day '**Word live**' from **Scripture Union** <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/word-live>
You can chose which translation to have and it provides the bible passage, a thought for the day and some explanation. (John B finds this one helpful- though sometimes you'll find you start off in the middle of a book that is more obscure than the gospels!)

OR

- If you're ready for a lot of bible reading, **Alpha do a free phone app** that takes you through the bible in a year and has a comment about one of the passages to help you. <http://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>



Hearing from God...in the Bible

- 1 Pray, ask God to speak to you through what you will read today
- 2 Open up your bible at today's passage.
- 3 Read the passage through
- 4 Read it again! noticing whether there are any bits of it that stand out for you
- 5 Ask, what does it mean?
- 6 Ask God, what is this saying to me?
- 7 Aware that God is present with you, be still and let His words to you quietly sink in.