

How to Read the Bible and Enjoy It – 7 Tips

1. Read Regularly

- a. Reading through a whole book at a time helps understand the flow of the book.
- b. I recommend reading both Old and New Testaments simultaneously.
- c. Use a plan – The whole Bible in one or two years. (Two years should be about 10-15 minutes reading per day.)
- d. Aim for the same time every day.
- e. Use a printed book. Or at the very least put your phone on do not disturb.

2. Use a translation that is enjoyable and easy to understand

- a. Example: Psalm 23:1
 - i. KJV: “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
 - ii. NIV: “The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”
 - iii. NLT: “The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”
- b. For English reading, I recommend the NIV, ESV, and NLT.

3. Pray before you read

- a. Ask God:
 - i. to speak to me and give me understanding
 - ii. to open my eyes to see, understand, and practice His truth
- b. This helps focus my mind and heart.

4. Ask questions like a news reporter

- a. Who, what, when, where, how, why?
- b. Try to answer the question – what is the main point of this passage?
- c. 3 helpful questions:
 - i. What does this passage say about God?
 - ii. What does this passage say about me?
 - iii. How can this passage be expressed in my life?

5. Don't get stuck on something you don't understand

- a. Remember, there is a great cultural difference between us and them.
- b. You don't have to understand every theological point.
- c. If you have more time and want to go deeper, read a commentary. I highly recommend www.enduringword.com . Another good free one is Constable's notes at <https://netbible.org/bible> .

6. Try to find one truth that touches your life.

- a. The goal is spiritual - internal transformation – not just increased knowledge.
- b. An encouragement.
- c. A change that needs to be made.

7. Thank God for that truth and think about it later on in your day.

- a. Writing it down can help, like on a note card you carry in your pocket.
- b. You can tell other people about it and even pray this truth for them.