

 This also means that everything we preach in church or read in a book has to line up with the Bible.

 **Jump in Read**

John 15v1-8
John 8v2-11
Psalm 23
2 Thessalonians 5v15-24
Judges 6v11-16

 **What do you think the passage is saying?**
What is it telling us about ourselves or about God?
What do you need to do having read this passage?

 **What is the biggest challenge you have to face this week?**
What is the most exciting thing that has happened this week?
Is there anything you need to ask God forgiveness for?
Have you told anyone that you have become a Christian?
What do you think God wants to work on in your life this week?

FREEDOM

Christian Church

How to read the Bible

There are four basic things that you need to do if you want to grow as a Christian.

 **You need to:**

Pray
Meet up with other Christians (Church)
Read the Bible
Worship God.

Being a disciple is a process. It takes time to mature in God. It's a journey.

 **Reading the Bible helps us:**

Learn about God.
Find out what He wants from us.
Find out how to live successfully.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Timothy 3v16 NLT

 **What is the Bible for?**
What do you need to do with it?

The Bible contains many solutions to the problems we face. It contains answers on how to do things – like how to pray, avoid sin, or please God. It includes God's view on how to make relationships work and how to get your life in order. There are no shortage of good books, videos, TV programs and CD's to help you, but the Bible is the real source. It is like your 5 fruit and veg's as opposed to a bottle of vitamin supplements.

 **What does "All Scripture is inspired by God mean"?**

When the verse above says that all Scripture is inspired by God it means that God is the ultimate author of the Bible. God used different people, along with their personalities and experiences to get the message to us, but it is fundamentally God's message.

 The Bible is a remarkable book. A life coach manual. It is made up of 66 individual books written over a period of 1500 years. The books are diverse. They contain poetry, history, teaching and prophecy. The authors are equally diverse, they range from men who received a top notch education like Moses and Paul, right through to uneducated farmers like Amos or fishermen like Peter.

It is arranged in two parts. The First or Old Testament records God's dealings with Israel before the birth of Jesus. The New Testament starts with the birth of Jesus and records God's dealings with the church. There is usually an index at the front of your Bible to help you find the books and the books themselves are divided into chapters and then verses.

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Bringing life, hope and freedom to people, communities and nations.

Parts of the Bible are simple and easy to understand and apply to our lives. Other parts are more difficult to understand and harder to interpret.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1v8



What is the Bible for?
What do you need to do with it?

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 1 Peter 2v2



What should your attitude to the Bible be?
What effect will it have on you?

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a person who looks at their face in a mirror and, after looking at them self, goes away and immediately forgets what they look like. But the person who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it--they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1v22-25



What do you think it means when it says the Bible is a mirror?
What does the Bible show you?
What is the result going to be?



This means that when you read the Bible you need to ask questions like;
What does this mean?
What does this tell me about myself?
What do I need to do because of this?
What does this tell me about God?

Christians consider the Bible to be of upmost importance.

Why is this and what place should I give the Bible in my life?



He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

Ephesians 5v25-26

What is the Bible for?

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119v105

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119v130



What is the Bible for?
What do you think 'light' means here?
What do you need to do with it?

When we read the Bible it gives God a great opportunity to speak to us and tell us His will.

When we read the Bible God's Holy Spirit will be working in us to explain it and apply it. He will make the Bible come alive to you. The Bible is written for all people in all situations, as a result there are parts of it that will not apply to the situation you are in now. As you read you will find that the Holy Spirit will highlight things that He thinks are important for you. It is almost like the Bible is written just for you.



What should you do when that happens?
What should you do when you don't understand something?

Some Bibles have a commentary built into them. These commentaries can be very helpful when a passage is hard to understand.



There are many different translations of the Bible (it was originally written in Hebrew and Greek)

Which one is best?

When should I read the Bible?

Which parts should I read first?

How much should I read?

What should I do when I don't agree with something it says?



How should I read the Bible?

Read the Bible expecting to learn and understand.

Read the Bible expecting to hear from God.

Think about what you read.

Read it intending to change.

If you try hard enough you will find a verse in the Bible to back up almost anything. You can quote or miss quote Scripture to prove anything. This is a very poor way to read the Bible. Sometime you need to find out the circumstance that cause something to be written – what it meant in the experience of the people who first heard it, who wrote it and why. Each verse needs to be read in light of what the whole Bible says, not just the verse itself.



For example:

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5v18

Does this mean it is OK to get drunk on Lion Red?

What Spirit is it talking about? Vodka?

Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 1 Corinthians 11v13

Some people have taught that this means women should wear hats in church. When Paul wrote this, the only people who had uncovered hair in public were prostitutes, and the place he wrote it to, Corinth, was notorious for immorality. So what he wrote made perfect sense. We don't have that problem that he was trying to sort out, so we don't have to wear hats. The equivalent of what Paul is saying to us today is "don't come to church looking like a prostitute."

What should I do if I don't remember what I read yesterday?

Don't panic, reading the Bible has a cumulative effect. Once you have been doing it for a while you will find things fall into place.



You will also find that the Bible is multi-layered, the more you read it the deeper the meanings become. It's like an onion! You will also start to make connections across the book.



Christians believe that the Bible tells us all we need to know to be right with God, there is no extra book.



Christians believe that the Bible is our ultimate authority, that means that what we do as a church has to agree with the Bible as a whole. No Christian leader can come up with something new.