

GETTING STARTED IN BIBLE READING

Reading through the Bible day by day is one of the key ways the Lord grows His people to know Him more and challenge us toward following Jesus. Daily reading is for the purposes of hearing from God, learning His Word, and applying His wisdom. It is illogical to conceive of a follower of Jesus who does not hear from Jesus. Jesus called his disciples “so that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach...” (Mark 3:14). They walked alongside Him and heard his teaching to abide in Him. This happens for us as we read the Bible and are taught by the Holy Spirit. Disciples of Jesus make Bible intake a daily part of their lives because they know they can’t be like their teacher without hearing from Him.

Remember, however, it’s not simply about understanding! It’s about obedience. So, every day we read the Bible, we ask two questions:

- What does it say?
- What am I going to do about it?

We record on paper the answers to those questions every day. In asking what it says, we pursue:

Lightbulbs: sections, verses, phrases, or even words that simply make a light come on - something that jumps out and grabs our attention.

Question marks: with the Holy Spirit as our guide, we are free to ask questions. The Bible can be difficult to understand, and it’s helpful to record our questions, to ask Him to clarify for us, and to be ready to share those questions in Growth Groups.

Arrows: daily intake of Scripture is sure to bring conviction of sin, sometimes penetrating straight through us like an arrow. We then pursue growth and change.

In making some notes, we mark these three types of observations, and then record what we’re going to do in obedience to what we’ve just read. Also, consider not just how far you have to go, but how far Jesus has gone in giving His life for you! Take time to see Him and His sacrifice and love for you in the text.