

Spending time with God

Where to begin reading the Bible and hearing God's voice

Be still

Take some time quieting down your mind and asking God to show himself to you in this time.

Focus on a selected scripture

Read and meditate on the passage for the day. Perhaps grab a journal and write some responses to these prompting questions:

- What does the text say? (Summarize the passage in your own words)

- What does the text mean? (What stands out? What does this text tell us about God/Jesus? What does it say about us/people?)

- What does this mean for my life? (What will you specifically do to respond to the things God is showing you? Who can you share them with?)

Spend some time in prayer

A simple way is to go through the acronym PRAY - Praise / Repent / Ask / Yield

Praise

Spend time in worship by praying back what God showed you in the Bible about himself, or other things that come up. You can start with: "God, you are ..."

Repent

Repenting is about turning away from our sin and asking God to help us live holy lives. Is God calling you to ask forgiveness about something or turning away from something?

Ask

God is a loving father who enjoys hearing from us. What are things you want to ask God for?

Yield

Yielding is about giving God control of our lives and surrendering our plans to his perfect will. How is he calling you to yield control to him?



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Tips as you begin

- Find a physical copy or download an app: Try the YouVersion Bible app.
- Choose a contemporary translation (try NLT or NIV).
- Use the table of contents (or scroll on your phone) to locate the book (i.e Genesis, John, etc).
- The first number refers to the chapter title, the second number(s) represent the verse(s).
- Read the passage a couple times. Try to really sit in it as you spend time meditating on the questions.
- Focus more on application rather than feeling like you have to understand every little piece of the story. Don't get discouraged if you don't understand everything.
- As you dive deeper into the Bible, check out an app that explains some of the background of the books. Try bibleproject.com or use the ReadScripture app.
- Gather others in your family or friend circle and discover this together. Try using DBSgroups.com - It's amazing what a group of people can learn together!

Suggested scriptures to begin with:

- John 15:1-17
- John 3:1-21
- Luke 23:26-49
- John 20:1-18
- Psalm 1:1-6
- Romans 12:1-2
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Philippians 4:4-9
- Galatians 5:16-26
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Philippians 2:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Deuteronomy 30:11-20
- 1 Peter 1:13-23
- Colossians 3:1-17
- Psalm 86
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- John 14:15-27
- 1 John 4:7-21
- Romans 8:1-17
- 1 John 1:5-2:6
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
- Go through the Gospel of Mark, section by section

