Tips For Bible Reading

Calvary Baptist Church   www.calvarybatesville.net

Reading the Bible (or any big book) can be daunting. Especially when you have tried before and not made it! The following are ways to encourage and enhance your Bible Reading so that it becomes a life-long habit.

1. **Read the Bible like a "normal" book.**
   Chapter and verse divisions are great for teaching, but terrible for reading. Read sentences and paragraphs instead of chapters and verses. Also, keep in mind the chapter and verse divisions are not always in the best spots.

2. **Look for the main CHARACTER in every book, story, or passage.**
   The real hero of the Bible is not Moses, David, Samson, or Paul. It is Jesus! Every time you read the Scriptures, you must look for how that story or passage points us to Jesus. It will do this either by:

   1) Predicting His Work   2) Show why we need His Work
   3) Explain the Results of His Work   4) Reflect on His Work

3. **Look for the main STORY in every story!**
   Unfortunately, many times the Bible is taught in Sunday School as a random collection of stories that are used to teach some moral lesson. While the Bible does contain proper morals and commands, the main story is how God redeemed us through Jesus Christ! Every story is a part of that bigger story. As you're reading the Bible, ask how what you're reading fits into that story.

4. **DO NOT succumb to false guilt when you don't read!**
   If you miss a day, it is okay! Like any new habit, you'll have days where you do well, and days you don't.

5. **Consider not using a reading plan.**
   If you read about 3 chapters per day on average, you will read through the entire Bible in one year. However, there is no command in Scripture that we must do this! See #7.

6. **If you use a reading plan, do not try to "make up" for days missed.**
   You will get discouraged very quickly if you try this. If you miss a day, either:

   - Read yesterday's reading today and let your schedule be a day/week/month off.
     (If you're using an electronic app, you can usually adjust your reading

calendar)

- Simply skip yesterday's and read today's reading.

7. **It is better to read a little every day than to read a lot 1-2 days per week.**
   It is better to read a little and remember what you read.

8. **Understand the "arrangement" of the Bible.**
   While it is admirable to read the Bible "cover to cover," sometimes that can be confusing. The Bible is NOT arranged in the order the events happened. To help with this, you can find a "Chronological Bible reading plan." Otherwise, your pastor can help you with this.

9. **Do not try to understand everything.**
   Remember, this is a life-long process! Trust that one day, you're going to read this passage again, this time with the benefit of having read the book as a whole!

10. **ENJOY the Bible!**
    Read it imaginatively! Try to think about what it would have been like to live "in the stories."

Ways to begin:

1. **Begin with a Gospel**. The Life and Ministry of Christ is always a great place to begin reading the Bible! Many recommend John as a starting place. Mark or John are terrific places to start!

2. **Find a reading plan that works for you, but remember what was said above**.
   A reading plan really is the best way to keep your Bible reading going. For a good reading plan, consider one of the options below.

   a. **Robert Murray McCheynne Plan**
      4 chapters per day, every day. Read through the OT 1x and the NT and Psalms 2x per year. VERY popular plan.

   b. **5 Day Bible Reading Plan**
      A basically chronological plan. 5 days per week with weekends off for catch up. I started this one a couple of years ago. It quickly became my favorite!