



A MESSAGE GUIDE

How to Read the Bible

A simple guide to meeting with God every day.

LOVE CHURCH SAN DIEGO

LOVE GOD · LOVE PEOPLE · LOVE CHURCH

START HERE

Start with This Truth

The goal isn't to finish the Bible. The goal is to know the God of the Bible.

Reading the Bible isn't about checking a box—it's about growing in a relationship with Jesus.

1. Begin with Prayer

Before you read, simply pray:

*"God, thank You for speaking. Help me understand Your Word today.
Show me Jesus, and help me obey what You teach me."*

Reading the Bible isn't just gaining information.

It's spending time with your Father.

2. Start in the Right Place

If you're new to reading Scripture...

Don't start in Leviticus. Start with Jesus.

We recommend reading in this order:

- John
- Mark
- Luke
- Acts
- Romans
- Genesis

3. Read Slowly

You don't need five chapters. One chapter is enough. Sometimes five verses are enough. Don't rush.

Quality is more important than quantity.

It's better to meditate on one verse than to speed through five chapters.

4. Ask Four Questions

As you read, ask yourself:

What does this teach me about God?

- Who is He?
- What is He like?
- What is He doing?

What does this teach me about people?

- What does this reveal about the human heart?
- Where do I see myself?

Is there something to obey?

- A command?
- A promise?
- A warning?
- A sin to avoid?
- An example to follow?

How should I respond today?

What's one thing I can do today because of what I just read?

Knowledge isn't the goal. Obedience is.

5. Try the SOAP Method

If you're wondering how to journal during your Bible reading, the SOAP method is a simple place to start.

S — Scripture

Write down one verse that stood out to you.

| *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105*

O — Observation

Ask:

- What is happening in this passage?
- What does this teach me about God?
- Why did this verse stand out?

A — Application

Ask:

- How should this change my life today?
- What's one practical way you can obey what God has shown you?

P — Prayer

Talk to God about what you've read.

- Thank Him.
- Confess sin.
- Ask for wisdom.
- Pray for the strength to live out His Word.

Remember: Reading the Bible is not just about learning something new. It's about becoming more like Jesus.

6. Look for Jesus

The whole Bible points to Christ.

As you read, ask:

| "What does this passage show me about Jesus?"

Even in the Old Testament, God is preparing the world for His Son.

The Bible isn't a collection of disconnected stories.

It's one story about one Savior.

7. Read in Community

God never intended us to follow Jesus alone.

- Talk about what you're reading.
- Ask questions.
- Join a Bible study.
- Be part of a local church.

Growth happens best in community.

8. Keep Showing Up

Some days will feel amazing. Some days won't. That's okay.

Healthy relationships aren't built on emotional highs. They're built on faithfulness.

Keep opening your Bible.

God is at work—even on the days you don't feel it.

Remember

You don't have to understand everything today.

The goal isn't mastering Scripture overnight. It's allowing Scripture to shape you over a lifetime.

Small, faithful steps every day lead to a lifetime of transformation.

PRAY THIS

A Bible Reading Prayer

*Father,
 Thank You for speaking through Your Word.
 Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your truth.
 Help me know Jesus more deeply.
 Shape my heart by Your Spirit.
 Give me the courage to obey what You show me today.
 Help me become more like Christ as I spend time with You.
 In Jesus' name,
 Amen.*

THIS WEEK

This Week's Reading Plan

A simple one-week plan through the book of Philippians — Paul's letter on joy, humility, and contentment. Finish the whole letter this week before we start Romans together next week.

Day	Reading
Monday	Philippians 1:1–11
Tuesday	Philippians 1:12–30
Wednesday	Philippians 2:1–11
Thursday	Philippians 2:12–30
Friday	Philippians 3
Saturday	Philippians 4:1–9
Sunday	Philippians 4:10–23

One Final Encouragement

Don't worry about reading the entire Bible in one month.

Don't compare yourself to someone else's journey.

Just keep showing up.

Every time you open God's Word, you're not simply reading a book. You're meeting with the God who loves you and has chosen to speak to you.