

A short guide to Bible reading resources



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

Many Christians evaluate their Bible reading habits at the beginning of a new year and then either adopt a Bible reading plan or start using one of the many good Bible reading resources there are out there. But even if it's not the beginning of the year it's never too late to start! For your convenience we have put together this little booklet. The first section contains a list of Bible reading plans for you to choose from. These plans will help you read through the entire Bible over a 1, 2 or 3 year period. The second section lists some of the daily Bible reading resources that are available in print form. The third section lists some digital resources for use on your computer, smart phone or tablet; then there are some Bible reading resources for children. This booklet ends with the SOAP method for studying Bible verses to help you get more out of your Bible reading.

Bible Reading Plans: Read through the Bible in a Year

One of the reasons we can find reading the Bible so challenging is we don't have in a place a system to help us do it in a regular and structured way. Perhaps one of the following plans can help you read more of the Bible and to do it more often?

52 Week Bible Reading Plan: Read through the Bible in a year, with each day of the week dedicated to a different genre: Epistles, The Law, History, Psalms, Poetry, Prophecy, and Gospels. Download it here: www.bible-reading.com/bible-plan.pdf

5x5x5 Bible Reading Plan (5 minutes a day, 5 days a week, with 5 ways to dig deeper): Read through the New Testament in a year, reading Monday to Friday. Weekends are set aside for reflection and other reading. Especially beneficial if you're new to a daily discipline of Bible reading. Download it here:

http://web.archive.org/web/20131207190241/http://www.navpress.com/uploadedFiles/5x5x5_BRP.pdf

A Bible Reading Chart: Read through the Bible at your own pace. Use this minimalistic, yet beautifully designed, chart to track your reading over the year. Download it here:

https://visualunit.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/bible_reading_chart.pdf

Chronological Bible Reading Plan: Read through the Bible in the order the events occurred chronologically. Download it here:

www.esv.org/assets/pdfs/rp.chronological.pdf

Tabletalk Bible Reading Plan: Two readings each day; one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Download it here:

http://ligonier-public-media.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/promotions/files/2015_TT_BibleInAYear.pdf

Also accessible in the Ligonier App ([iPhone / iPad](#), [Android](#), & [Windows Phone](#)) & [YouVersion](#).

The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan: Four daily readings beginning in Genesis, Psalms, Matthew and Acts. Download it here:

www.esv.org/assets/pdfs/rp.chronological.pdf

Bible Reading Plans: Read through the Bible in two years or more

For many of us reading the Bible in two or three years is more realistic and achievable. Furthermore, because there is less to read each day there is potentially more time for reflection and prayer.

Two-Year Bible Reading Plan: Read the Old and New Testaments once, and Psalms & Proverbs four times. Download it here:

www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/files/2010/12/TGC-Two-Year-Bible-Reading-Plan1.pdf

Every Word in the Bible (a three year plan): Read through the Bible one chapter at a time. Readings alternate between the Old and New Testaments. Download it here:

http://storage.cloversites.com/crossroadschurch1/documents/3yrGddTour_a_f cms.pdf

Bible Reading Resources (printed publications)

The following printed materials by The Good Book Company come highly recommended by the Vicar:

From The Good Book Company (www.thegoodbook.co.uk or Tel: 0333 123 0880):

‘Explore’ - Each issue contains three months of daily readings with ideas for prayer and application, to help you understand clearly the message & challenge of God's word.

‘The Daily Reading Bible’ - The all-in-one, take-anywhere package to help you feed regularly from God's word. It has everything you need to get started in one compact, portable package. Each book contains 60 Bible readings including the full text of the Bible passage; some questions to get you thinking; some 'points to ponder' and some ideas to get you started in prayer.

Here are some of the printed materials used by some members of St. Paul's Church:

‘Inspiring Women’ by CWR. ‘Fresh insights by women, for women each month for a whole year’. <http://www.cwr.org.uk/women>

'The Manual'. Bible Notes for Men by Carl Beech of Christian Vision for Men. <http://cvm.org.uk/themanual>.

Scripture Union produce several Bible reading guides.

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Shop/Biblereadingguides/Biblereadingforadults/164868.id or Tel: 01908 856000.

Bible Reading Resources (digital resources)

'Explore app' - The Good Book Company's excellent Bible reading notes are available as an app. This is the vicar's favourite bible reading app and he warmly recommends it to you.

<http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/explore-app>

'Read Scripture' - a year-long Bible reading plan with amazingly creative videos (produced by the Bible Project) that explain every book of the Bible, major theological themes of the gospel, and tips on how to read the Bible. App available on iPhone and Android.

www.readscripture.org

'Look at the Book' by John Piper – an excellent new online resource in which John Piper teaches you how to read the Bible for yourself.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! www.desiringgod.org/labs

Don Carson's 'The Love of God' – originally published as a book this resource can now be viewed online for free. It helps you to read the Bible in a year. It provides short but thought provoking commentary to help you understand it better and in turn love God more.

www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/loveofgod

'bibleinoneyear.org' - a free Bible reading app with commentary by Nicky and Pippa Gumble. The daily readings can be read online, in the app or emailed to your inbox.

Resources for Children and Young People

www.thegoodbook.co.uk has some excellent resources to help adults read the Bible with children. If you're looking for a good children's Bible with attractive pictures 'The Beginner's Bible' is probably the best. 'The Big Picture Story Bible' by David Helm and the 'Jesus Storybook Bible' by Sally Lloyd-Jones & Jago are also excellent. The 'New Century Version: International Children's Bible' is very good for older children and a good stepping stone between children's picture Bibles and the Bibles we adults use.

The Good Book Company also provide excellent Bible reading materials. We highly recommend the following:

'Beginning with God' - helps parents with young children to explore the Bible with their child. It provides a simple and fun way to start your child in a regular habit of reading God's word and growing to know God, who loves them.

'XTB' - Designed especially for 7-10 year-olds. XTB encourages children to understand, apply and pray through the Bible in an accessible and thought-provoking way. Used and recommended by the vicar!

'Table Talk': Table Talk is designed to form the basis for a short family Bible time – maybe just five minutes at a mealtime. It includes a simple discussion starter or activity that leads into a short Bible reading. Used and recommended by the vicar!

'Discover' - a quarterly publication aimed at 11-13 year olds, packed full of puzzles, prayer points and application.

'Engage' Bible notes aim to help 14-18 year olds understand and apply the scriptures. They also include articles on relevant life issues.

How to Use the S.O.A.P Method of Bible Reading

S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer. It's a great way to delve more deeply into your Bible reading and record what you've learnt and prayed. You can use it with any Bible reading plan, whether you're reading straight through from Genesis to Revelation, or following a reading plan from your church, study Bible or the internet.

Things you'll need: A Bible, paper or journal, pen.

1. Find a quiet time and space to read your Bible, preferably at the same time each day. Many people find that reading scripture in the morning helps get their day off to a focused start.
2. Complete the **"S"** by reading the scripture. Don't just skim through it, but really think about what it means. Imagine what the people involved were experiencing. Write down a verse or two that really stood out to you in your journal.
3. Complete the **"O"** by writing down observations about the scripture you just read. You may want to write your own summary of the passage, but more importantly, think about what God is saying in this part of his word.
4. Complete the **"A"** by writing down how this Bible passage applies to you right now, in your daily life. What fresh insight does it give you into who God is, what he is like and what he has done for you? What should you change about the way you think, speak and live?
5. Complete the **"P"** by writing down a prayer. This is a personal message from you to God, so don't worry about getting the perfect words down. Just make it honest and heartfelt. Remember that God always listens, and already knows your needs. He just wants to hear from you.

S.O.A.P STUDY

Scripture: Write down the verse or passage that is the focus.

Observation: Write down 1-2 observations about the Bible verses you have read. What is God saying?

Application: How does the passage apply to you right now in your daily life?

Prayer: Write a prayer based on the passage, responding to what you have learnt from God's word.