

TIPS FOR READING THE BIBLE



1 PRAY BEFORE YOU READ

David prayed, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18). Always pray and ask for God's guidance before you read the Bible. God inspired the writing of the Bible and will help you understand what He is trying to teach you.

2 START SMALL

Start with three to five minutes of Bible reading each morning, and read again in the evening. What is most important is not how much you read, but that you understand what God is trying to teach you. Before long your special time with God will grow, and you will find yourself wanting to spend more time with Him!

3 HAVE A PLAN

▶ *Read the Bible from cover to cover.*

The Bible is a big book and to complete this plan will take some time. You may also find some books of the Bible to be more difficult to read than others, but don't let this discourage you.

▶ *Select a book of the Bible to read.*

You could try starting with the Gospel of John. John wrote it so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). As you read, get to know Jesus as best as you possibly can.

▶ *Find a good daily devotional book.*

You can find a variety of devotional books that contain character-building stories based on specific Bible texts. While these are great to read, be sure to read a portion of God's Word every day.

▶ *Take notes.*

The Bible is like a mine from which you will discover an abundance of precious gems as you dig through its pages. Write down the lessons you learn in personal time with Jesus so you will remember them. Keep a notebook with your Bible as you read and write down texts that are special to you and other interesting things you learn. You could also write down ways you can apply the principles you learn to your everyday life.

