

Why Read The Bible?

Reading or hearing the Bible and applying it provides one of the most vital parts of a Christian's growth in following Jesus. But we can all sometimes feel like we don't know where to start and how to read it.

The Bible is God's Word to us, it is His great story of creation in Genesis, up to a new creation coming in Revelation. All of it points to a God of grace and love, who is redeeming his creation and rescuing people to know and enjoy Him.

The Bible equips the believer to hear God's voice, to know His Son, Jesus, and His plans for all of creation, and to follow His ways.

Jesus read and quoted the Old Testament throughout his life. As followers of Jesus we want to follow in His ways and do as he did.

How To Receive The Bible?

There are many ways we can practically go about positioning ourselves to receive the Bible. Here are a few that could be really helpful:

- Daily reading - spend time each day reading a few verses or whole chapters at a time. Daily reading allows us to centre our day around hearing the voice of God in our lives and the eternal truths found in His Word.
- Listening to it read - through apps or other means you can listen to it if you struggle to read. It's also helpful to hear someone else read it in a way we wouldn't have read ourselves.
- Study - last year we created a resource for studying the Bible. You can find it through the link [here](#).
- Devotional reading - It is essential to study the Bible, but study tends to be cerebral and mental rather than worshipful. It is vital to read the Bible prayerfully, not merely intellectually. Several resources in the link above are helpful for this as well.
- Memorization - Jesus memorized scripture and overcame the temptations of the devil through it. We also can memorize scripture for overcoming temptation, for our encouragement and comfort.
- The preaching of the Bible - when we gather on Sundays, it is a great opportunity to receive scripture read for us but also explained and applied to our lives.

Remember why you're reading in the first place! Listen to what David says...

"How sweet are your words to my taste,

sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:103-105 ESV