

How to Study the Bible

Beginner's Guide to Studying the Bible

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient ... Philemon 1:7-8 KJV

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker ... and to the church that meets in your home ... Philemon 1:1-2 NIV

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ... Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly [Onesimus] was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. Philemon 1:4-5, 7-11 NIV

How to Study the Bible

1. Choose a translation you understand.
2. Choose a time, a place, and a plan to study.
3. Understand the context.
4. Read slowly and ask questions.
5. Pray for God to speak to you, and apply what He shows you.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's something you enjoy learning about?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why? Is there anything you want to learn more about?
- When you study the Bible, it's important to choose a time, a place, and a plan. What time, place, and plan do you think might work best for you?
- Read **Philemon 1:4-5, 7-11**. What was the context of this passage—what was going on with Paul and Onesimus when it was written? How does this information help you understand the significance of this letter?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- God is writing our stories right now. How have you seen God use His Word to change your life?
- How is God calling you to go deeper in the Bible this week?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word through the Bible. We want to use the Bible to get to know You better. Please help us and guide us as we continue studying Your Word. We're ready to know You more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- [This week, find one new or fresh way to study the Bible. Then share your experience with your LifeGroup.](#)
- [Find more resources and ways to practice studying the Bible: www.life.church/Biblestudy](#)
- Start the Bible Plan, *The Bible: Explained* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/theBible
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.