



How to Study the Bible

Part 1: Beginner's Guide To Studying the Bible

January 14, 2024

Key Scripture

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

- Choose a translation you understand.
- Choose a time, a place, and a plan to study.
- Understand the context.
- Read slowly and ask questions.
- 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

- 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

- 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

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

- This week, find one new or fresh way to study the Bible. Then share your experience with your Connect Group.
- If you are not in a Life Transformation Group, this is your next step so you can read the Bible with others.