

Studying the Bible at Home

A guide that can be used anytime by anyone

This guide will lead you through a really simple way of reading and studying the Bible by yourself or with other people. All you need is a Bible (paper or electronic) and to set aside some time. At least 30 minutes is a good idea. God speaks to us as we read what he has given us. We don't need anybody else to hear from God; the Author is with us!

1. Choose a Passage and Read It

You can use this method with any part of the Bible, so you don't need to overthink this part! Here are some simple pointers you could find helpful though:

- A good thing to do is pray about it, and then decide. God just might guide you to the part He wants for you.
- If you want to read a section of Bible in a few weeks, try Philippians or Matthew 5-7.
- If you have a favourite part of the Bible, why not start there – it's not cheating!
- If there are particular things you want to hear from God about, search online to find passages that are about that.

Now pray, asking that you'll hear and respond to God, then read it a couple of times.

2. Ask These Questions

The rest of the time is spent with these 3 questions. There are some prompts to get you thinking and exploring in helpful ways.

What does it **'SAY'**?

- Can you summarise it?
- What does it say about God?
- What does it say about us as people?
- Are there parts that bother you?
- What do you like in it?
- Are there commands?
- Are there promises?

What can I **'OBEY'**?

- Begin this part in prayer, asking God to guide you where he wants to.
- Now decide what you'll DO as a result of this time with God in the Bible.
- It might be directly from the passage.
- It might be something related that you have sensed God speaking to you.
- Make a commitment about it.

What will I **'SHARE'**?

- It is good to share good things.
- So what will you share with someone else?
- Maybe there is good news in what you've read you can share.
- Maybe a realisation of revelation that might encourage someone.
- Commit to sharing, and then share!

Like most things, we get better at this with practice! You will find as you start to do this more regularly that you are able to hear God more clearly.

So keep on going with it!

If you'd like to try this out on a regular basis with someone, ask them. If you don't know who to ask, get in touch. We will try to buddy you up.

Enjoy your time with God!