

Tips for Personal Bible Study

Mid-State Baptist Association

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Psalm 119:105

II Timothy 3:16-17

- ▶ *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*
- ▶ *All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching ... so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Here are a few tips
that others have
found helpful as they
read and study
the Bible.

Tip #1

- ▶ In order to make it a consistent habit, pick the same time every day - Example: while you drink coffee in the morning or right after supper every night. Some people like to read when they first wake up, some like to read when they are about to go to sleep.
- ▶ Find a quiet place - away from TV, radio, email, texts, and other things that might distract you.

Tip #2

- ▶ Read the Bible with a pen in your hand. Underline the verses that stand out to you.
- ▶ You might look for and underline your favorite three verses in each chapter or on each page.
- ▶ Underlining will help you remember what you read, help you find it again and help you share it with someone else.

Tip #3

- ▶ Have a plan for what you will read.
- ▶ Example: Choose a book like “John” or “Ephesians” and read one chapter every day until you finish that book.
- ▶ You don’t have to start at the beginning of the Bible.
- ▶ For new Christians, I recommend starting with the New Testament. You could start with Matthew and read a chapter a day, then go to Mark and so on.

Tip #4

- ▶ Read the chapter slowly and thoughtfully. Every passage has a purpose, a meaning and an application for our life.
- ▶ Instead of skim-reading it quickly, read the chapter slowly and ask God to teach you and show you what it is you need to learn today.
- ▶ Even though the Bible was written thousands of years ago, everything it says can be applied in some way to our lives today. God doesn't change and his word doesn't change.

Tip #5

- ▶ Pray about the verses you just read. “Father, help me to forgive that person who hurt my feelings.”
- ▶ “Help me to see the hurting people around me just like Jesus saw the poor, the crippled and the blind.”
- ▶ “Father, help me remember that you are powerful and that you know the desires of my heart.”

Tip #6

- ▶ Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a tender heart as you read. Read it with an open, teachable heart and a humble spirit.
- ▶ Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Tip #7

- ▶ Choose 10 verses to memorize and get a friend to do it with you. Practice saying the verses to each other, whenever you meet.
- ▶ Here are a few verses about salvation that are great to memorize:
John 1:12; John 3:16; John 5:24; Acts 1:8; Acts 16:31; Rom 1:16; Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23; Rom 5:8; Rom 10:13

Tip #8

- ▶ Join a small group Bible study where there is homework to do and people discuss what they are learning.
- ▶ Read the verses ahead of time that your group will be discussing when you meet. Be ready to talk about what you are learning and ask questions about things that may not be clear.

Tip #9

Ask yourself some basic questions after you finish reading a chapter.

- ▶ a. What did I learn about God?
- ▶ b. What did I learn about people in general and about myself?
- ▶ c. What does God want me to know, feel and do as a result of what I read?

Tip #10

Observation: What does the Bible say?

- ▶ The Bible tells us “to know” and “do” some things.
- ▶ Examples of things to know: “In the beginning God created” and “He loved us and sent His Son.”
- ▶ Examples of things to do: love, serve, pray, forgive, honor, praise, encourage, show mercy, hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Tip #11

Interpretation: What do the verses mean?

Examples:

- ▶ What are the different Biblical Greek words for “love” and which one is being used in this verse?
- ▶ What does the word “peace” mean in Rom 5:1 “We have peace with God through ... Christ.”?
It means - *to join, to bring together as one again.*

Tip #12

Application: How many ways can I apply this verse to my life?

- ▶ ***“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*** What are 5 practical ways I could show love in my neighborhood?
- ▶ ***“Forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*** Are there people I am bitter toward and need to forgive?
- ▶ ***“Remember that your brother has something against you”*** Who have I wronged or offended that I need to go to?
- ▶ ***“Pray for us too that God may open a door for our message”*** What door am I asking God to open?