GROW IN THE GREATS

HOW TO GET STARTED READING THE BIBLE

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF EXPLORING FAITH AND EXPERIENCING THE LIFE-CHANGING WAYS OF JESUS.

There is no book like the Bible. It is one book that contains 66 shorter books that all tell one story: The story of an all powerful, all knowing, all loving God who so loved the world that he sent his one and only son to it so that whoever believes in him will never perish.

The Bible is the most purchased book in human history, the most read book in human history, and the most influential book in human history.

HOW TO GET STARTED READING YOUR BIBLE:

Pick a place. It helps to have a specific place that becomes meaningful over time. *A favorite chair, a cozy spot on the couch, or a place at the table could soon become the special place you meet with God and hear his voice every time you open the Bible.*

Pick a time. It helps to have it on your calendar to keep it important. *Think of it as your most important meeting or lunch with an old friend.*

Pick a translation. It helps to have a translation you enjoy reading. *The Bible was not written in English originally so over the years translators have worked to create faithful English versions.*

Translations We Recommend:

- **NLT (New Living Translation):** Simplest. Worded so anyone 5th grade and up can understand.
- **NIV (New International Version):** Great translation for 7th grade reading levels and up. The primary translation we use at The Crossing.
- **ESV (English Standard Version):** More complex and nuanced for 9th grade and up.

If you have little kids, we recommend:

- The Jesus Storybook Bible
- The Action Bible

Pick a Plan. It helps to have a reading plan already designed for you or picked out.

If you want to learn about Jesus: Read the book of Luke
If you want to learn about the early church: Read the book of Acts
If you want to feel challenged to put your faith in action: Read the book of James
If you want to grow in prayer: Read a Psalm each day

For a wide selection of reading plans: Download the YouVersion Bible App. It is free and has many reading plans

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF READING THE BIBLE:

Write in it. Mark up your Bible. Add notes. Underline or highlight things that stick out. You can put a "?" in the margins of anything you don't understand.

Work through it. Ask Yourself Questions. Actively engage with what you are reading.

Questions We Recommend:

1. What does this passage teach me about God and people?
2. What do I think this passage meant to the original audience?
3. Is there anything God might be saying to me through this passage?

READING THE BIBLE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GROWING IN THE GREATS!

THE CROSSING CHURCH

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