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The only thing taller than the Burj Khalifa is the stack of books Im currently intending to read. I like to read fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, news stories, human interest pieces, jokes, and Twitter threads. I like to read books about the Bible. But I dont read all these books the same way, for the same reasons,
or with the same attention to detail. In reading a biography, I want to be entertained, wowed, moved, surprised by plot twists. I want to lose myself in the story. In
reading a poem, I want to be inspired, to have the poetic words splash me in the face like the rains of a summer storm striking my brow. I want to feel the sensations the poet creates. What about reading the Bible? What do I expect to get from reading the Poetic words splash me in the face like the rains of a summer storm striking my brow. I want to feel the sensations the poet creates. What about reading the Did and New Testaments? What is the payoff I should be expecting? At one level, the payoff of
Bible reading is learning new things. Especially when we read the parts we are not familiar with, we acquire knowledge of things we were previously negative about. Most Christians are more familiar with the New Testament than the Old Testament. So learning about the strange (to us) laws in Leviticus is eye-opening; the rise and fall of kings in 12
Kings is illuminating; even the minor prophets with their calls to repentance can bring us new insight. All these are often new material for many Christians to get their heads around. And what do I expect to gain from re-reading the books and passages of Scripture that Im already familiar with? You, for example, might be familiar with the Servant
Song in Isaiah 5253, with the call to remember things rightly in Psalm 77, with the famous Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 58, or with Jesuss letters to the seven churches in Revelation 23. Its always good to revisit our favorite passages, like dropping in on old friendsbut also because we want to go deeper into these treasured biblical texts, so we
can see the thematic connections within a book, or between biblical books, or how a given biblical book fits into the overarching storyline of Scripture. Bible reading can also be driven by some other specific purpose: I want to know what justification by faith is in Pauls letters, or whether Christians should observe the Sabbath, or whether you can lose
your salvation according to Hebrews. On those occasions we are reading for a specific purpose, to answer a particular question, or to satisfy a precise curiosity. Other times when I read the Bible, Im not looking for something new, nor trying to answer some niggling question. Often Im reading simply so that Gods word can flow into my life and quietly,
even unconsciously, shape me, transform me, my values, my dreams, my hopes, my relationships, and my behavior. I want to be a creature of the Word, a person soaked in and shaped by Gods Word to be a lamp for my feet, a light on my path
(Ps 119:105). I want to be careful to meditate on it day and night, so that I may be careful to do everything written in it (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8). I want to be prosperous
read because I need the word to correct, rebuke, and encourage me (2 Tim 4:2). I read because in a world that is cold, brutal, and dark, I need the enduring word of the Scriptures that comfort me that I might have hope (Rom 15:4). I want to desire air to breathe or food to nourish my body. But what is the best way to
read Gods Word so I can get the best results out of it, intellectually, and spiritually? How can my Bible reading satisfy my hunger for knowledge, my thirst for spiritual vitality, and my need to be conformed to the pattern of Jesus? You might not have time for three years of seminary; you have to shepherd your time wisely. So what are some
tips, tricks, hacks, and helps to level up your Bible study? Well, I do have a few suggestions for you! Reading one verse at a time, though popular on some email lists and apps, is like eating a cake where somebody sends you the ingredients one day at a time. Eating a cake then becomes the equivalent of eating three cups of flour
one day, a cup of butter the next day, and two tablespoons of cinnamon the day after that. You are eating the stuff that goes into a cake, but youre not getting the full cake-eating experience. Its the same with the Bible. Eat whole passages, not isolated verses, otherwise you are at risk of taking verses out of context and not getting the full gist (or
experience) of reading a text in its complete context. Reading the Bible should be more like finishing a jigsaw puzzle pieces together. Speed
dating is more like, Okay, youve got five minutes to convince me that youre either a fun day out or definite spouse materialwhich is rushed, quirky, and a little too desperate to impress in a short time span. Treat your Bible reading more like a jigsaw puzzle than speed dating. Dont look for a few quick things to impress you from a biblical book; rather,
graze upon and grind through a whole biblical book like its a puzzle you want to finish, and relish seeing the whole picture at the end. I find it helpful to read multiple biblical books at the same time. At the very least, try to read through an Old Testament book and a New Testament book simultaneously. It might sound weird, but believe it or not,
reading through Leviticus at the same time as you read through Hebrews will actually be helpful. Learning about Old Testament laws pertaining to sacrifices will help you understand the atonement theology in Hebrews, which is saturated in levitical imagery. If you are really keen, try reading: an Old Testament book the Psalms a Gospel and an
epistle at the same time If you do that, youll have many moments which amount to, Huh, this thing in 1 Peter, and vice-versa. Youll learn the skill of using Scripture to interpret Scripture. We all have our favorite Bible translations. There are so many, and Im even working on making my own (long story, stay
tuned!). My go-to church Bible is the NIV, while for scholarly work I tend to utilize the NRSVue. Thats partly an intellectual decision (I judge them good for certain tasks) as it is an aesthetic one (I like how they sound). It helps if you know that Bible translations are different and the reasons why they are different. First, some translations like the KJV,
the NASB, and to a lesser degree the ESV are literal or essentially literal. They want to stick to the Hebrew and the Greek as closely as possible even if the English translations like the NRSVue, NIV, LEB, and CSB, are more about dynamic equivalence. So yes, they translate from the original text, but
the translation has to be comprehensible to people who might not be naturally good readers. You cant write, Then came Jesus disciples and his Capernaum to even if thats close to the original Greek. So you have to flex a bit in how you construct clauses and sentences. That is what most Bible translations do: they thread the needle between fidelity and
readability. Third, there are paraphrases like The Message, the J.B. Phillips New Testament, and the Living Bible. Here, a bit of liberty is being taken with the text, attempting to make it comprehensible by capturing the vibe rather than the verbum of the text.
an interpretation. All translations include an element of interpretationall of them, and I mean all of them! Translators always have to make interpretation as they translate. In Romans 1:17, it could be the righteousness of God or the righteousness from God: you decide as you read and render the Greek text accordingly, because either option is
possible. So while all translation is an interpretation, paraphrase is a deliberate gloss on the text as an interpretation, paraphrase is our first attempt to understand something. So when my wife comes up to me in a huff and a puff, yelling all sorts of accusations and complaints, and Im trying to show that Im hearing her complaint, I sum up and
paraphrase her concern, So what youre saying, honey, is that I should not have used your wedding dress to wax the car and you feel like Ive desecrated something sacred to our marriage, and thats made you upset. So a paraphrase is good way to try to explain not only words but the main point and general sense of a passage in a creative and catchy
way. No problem there. While I would never limit my Bible reading to paraphrases, I think its actually a good idea to consult them as a kind of first-interpreter-on-the-scene sort of thing. Accordingly, when Im studying a passage in-depth, I like to look at the Hebrew and Greek (because I can); but for people who dont know biblical languages, using a
literal translation like the NASB is a surrogate that takes you close to the original text. But a translation like the NIV or CSB is probably better for a public Bible reading. These will balance fidelity to the original languages with intelligibility in reading them. And then I consult a paraphrase, like the Living Bible, because it might have a striking way of
putting something that is true to the original meaningeven if a little out of left field. For example, on Romans 1:17, the Living Bible renders the righteousness of God as God makes us right in Gods sight, which isnt a bad way to put it. It is a big help if you know the different types of Bible translations. Know how they are different, and know how to use
them the right and responsible way. You cant skirt through the pilgrimage of faith with the motto, All I need is my ESV and Me! It takes a church to raise a Christian friends, a para-church group like a university ministry, or most certainly your
church. The church isor at least should be a place where you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another (Rom 15:14), and the church corporately should let the word of Christ dwell in [it] richly; it should be a place where members teach and admonish one another in all wisdom (Col 3:16). You cant rely on
the pastor or priest to tell you everything about the Bible. The priesthood of all believers means everyoneyoung, middle-aged, and oldhas something to contribute when it comes to understanding Gods Word in all its fullness. The church needs fewer passive Bible consumers and more people trained to rightly explain the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15). To
be a Reader was once a noble and deliberate church office, one I think we need to recover. If you would rehearse a speech delivered before the Supreme Court, the United Nations, or your high school graduation, then practice your public Bible reading. You do not have to be a trained voice actor; but if asked to read the Bible in public, try some
inflection, vary your pitch, attempt to voice characters (carefully, not cheesily), emphasize key words, and draw people into your reading. It will enrich the preaching of the sermon and the experience of the congregation. The average preacher probably puts anything between five to twenty-five hours into the preparation of a thirty-minute Sunday
sermon. Yes, we all know that some preachers are better than others. Some have a booming voice and brilliant turns of phrase. They exude wisdom, and they show us the weight of glory every week. But not all preachers are blessed with a voice like James Earl Jones, with the wit of Stephen Colbert, with the freshness and empathy of Beth Moore, or
with the cultural antennae of Timothy Keller. But if your pastor has put effort into your listening. As a preacher, it is a little depressing when I see people staring down into the luminous glow of their phones because they are
scanning Instagram. I know they are doing that, otherwise they are staring at their crotch and smiling for no apparent reason. So try to actually listen to the sermon, rather than mentally think of that BBQ set you want to buy on eBay. Take notes, take heed, listen, learn, and love the Word. The same goes for Bible study. Its not an intermission in your
mid-weekly social catch-up. Its your spiritual vitamin pill for the week. So put some effort into paying attention and participating, as much as for your sake as for that of everybody else in the group. In a world where we have shrinking attention spans, measured in moments rather than minutes, we need to recover the discipline of deliberate and
intentional Bible digestion. Im a professional Bible scholar, but even I dont know everything about the Bible. Thats why I will consult the odd study Bible once in a while. There are plenty of them out there, and their quality varies greatlylet the reader understand. Avoid study Bibles with the words Scofield in the title or a front cover with a picture of a
guy smiling way, way too hard! The study Bibles I recommend are the NIV Study Bible, CSB Study Bible, RSV Harper Study Bible, Timeless Truths Study Bible, These study Bibles are useful for short introductions to biblical books, timelines, charts of things like the Herodian family, maps of
Judea and Pauls missionary journeys, locations of the seven churches of Revelation, and more. They answer questions such as , Where is Capernaum (or Shiloh)?, Who was Xerxes?, What is a Pharisee?, and so forth. We are so blessed to live in a world that is saturated in Bible teaching content, whether that is the Bible Project with its snazzy videos; or
any of the many excellent online video courses; the various resources put out by your favorite churches, seminaries, and ministries; or podcasts and YouTube channels from top preachers and scholars (see my Nazareth to Nicaea and Early Christian History). There is so much available these days. The problem is not finding content, its finding A-grade
content amidst all the flotsam and jetsam of an overcrowded digital world. So find a good podcast, a decent channel, or a sweet radio program you like and inject that into your diet of sanctifying consumption. But an important note: vary it a bit, both content and creators. Dont just listen to the same thing over and over (105 videos on Galatians 2) or
the same people (bald and bearded guys with glasses who complain every week about the designated hitter rule and which politician they think is the whore of Babylon). Go for a podcast and vodcast sampler and see what you find interesting and stimulating. If you are reading this, then you are probably already familiar with Logos. You already get
emails and messages about their products. I dont need to tell you about Logos tudy library, I couldn't do what I do without Logos. Whether it is comparing translations, delving into the Hebrew and Greek lexicons, consulting
church fathers and commentaries with a couple of clicks, or enjoying daily devotions, for me Logos is a must-have. Heck, I can remember when I used to have to use the Englishmans Greek Concordance to look up how many times that I
now have at my fingertips, thanks to Logos. You dont need the premium Logos library; start out with a smaller libraries like Bronze or Silver, learn how to use it, and then augment it with the books and resources that you need. Youll never look back. Reading a commentary is like having a Philip running beside your chariot to help you understand the
part of the Bible youre currently reading. There are now more Bible commentary series available than Chick-fil-A stores in Kentucky. Bible commentary series can be very different, and every series are now more Bible commentary series, their individual contributors, ranks
the most popular volumes, and explains the goals and aims of each series. Generally, there are commentary series for preachers (NIV Application Commentary and Story of God Bible Commentary to which I myself have contributed a volume, on
Romans!), an abundance of intermediate commentary Series, New International Commentary, Paideia), some focus on the original languages as a kind of linguistic analysis (Baylor
Handbook on the Greek New Testament, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary, and Hermeneia). My advice, start with something thin, light, and easy to read, the Tyndale House New Testament Commentary, and Hermeneia).
and work your way up from there. The Bible can help your prayer life, and prayers can direct your Bible reading. Also, in my own Reformed tradition, Word and sacrament go together as both are a means of grace. What we need in our life ultimately is more grace, so when we combine Word and Sacrament, grace multipliesgrace upon grace. We read
the gospel of grace and experience the symbols and efficacies of grace in the sacraments. So thats my advice to you on how to read the Bible better. To finish, let me leave you with the prayer of Thomas Cranmer: Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark,
reading it can be intimidating for us, learning how to read the Bible can have tremendous spiritual and mental benefits. The more we understand and apply biblical principles to our lives, the more our lives are enriched. Here are some effective tips for reading and studying the Bible. Prepare your heart Before you begin any bible study, it is important
to prepare your heart to receive the word. Spend some time praying and asking God to open up your heart and your mind to hear the message he wants to teach you. Commit your studies. Choose a translation There are many different translations of the Bible to
choose from, so it is important to pick the one that works best for you. If you are new to Christianity, some translations, such as the King James Version or the New International Version, can be great starting points. Both are widely used and well-respected among Christian to pick the one that works best for you. If you are new to Christianity, some translations, such as the King James Version or the New International Version, can be great starting points. Both are widely used and well-respected among Christianity, some translations, such as the King James Version or the New International Version, can be great starting points.
style and the accuracy of the translation when selecting your version of the Bible to read. Select a book and chapterYou might likeWhat Does The Bible to reading your version of the Bible to read. Select a book and chapterYou might likeWhat Does The Bible translation, its time to select a book and chapterYou might likeWhat Does The Bible to read. Select a book and chapterYou might like to focus on one book, start there. If you are new to Bible reading
and studying, pick a book that you are familiar with or that speaks to you. Alternatively, you can select a passage at random and explore that book. Consider the chapter and verse layout to help you find the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage of scripture to read, it is time to read it. Read the passage you are looking for. Read the passage you are looking for. Read and meditate Now that you have selected a passage you are looking for. Read the passage you are looking for. Read th
slowly and thoughtfully, taking in each word and phrase. Pray for clarity and understanding of the passage as you read. Use cross-referencing and take notes of your thoughts as you read. Take actionOnce you have understood the
passage, its time to take action. Ask yourself how you can apply the principles you have learned to your life. Consider how you can use this new knowledge to further your relationship with God. Find an accountability partner to an be helpful to find a trusted
friend or mentor who can help you stay accountable in your Bible reading habits. Have meaningful conversations with them about your faith, your goals and your struggles. Have them encourage you to read, meditate and reflect on what you have learned. Make sure you connect with them regularly for encouragement and motivation. Develop a
reading planYou might likeWhat does groaning mean in the bible? Having a set plan for your Bible and follow your plan. Consider setting goals for yourself and reward yourself for reaching them. Remember that the more consistent you are
in following your plan, the more progress you will make. Dive into other forms of reading Reading the Bible can be intimidating and challenging. Fortunately, there are many other forms of Bible study that can add depth and richness to your spiritual journey. Consider reading commentaries, Bible handbooks, devotionals, and other forms of Bible study that can add depth and richness to your spiritual journey.
literature. These can provide further insight and understanding of scripture. They can also be a helpful accompaniment to your Bible reading. Take advantage of online resources to aid us in our spiritual journey. There are many websites and applications devoted to Bible study. Sites like
Biblegateway, Bible is, and Life. Church have a plethora of resources to help you learn and apply the Bible to your life. Consider taking full advantage of these tools to enhance your study. Keep going Reading the Bible to your life. Consider taking full advantage of these tools to enhance your Bible reading habits. Keep going, even if you fee
discouraged or fall behind. It can be helpful to keep a journal to document your progress and keep track of your thoughts and insights. Doing this can motivate you to press on in your studies. Learning how to interpret it is key. It is
important to remember that the Bible should be interpreted in its proper context. Consider its author, its intended audience, and its historical background when understanding what it is teaching. Additionally, be aware of the differences between the Old and New Testaments. Take time to reflect on how specific passages can apply to your
life.Embracing new perspectivesThe Bible can be interpreted in a diverse array of ways. Be open to new perspectives and interpretations of scripture. Consider the teachings of the Bible and provide you with a deeper appreciation of its
teachings. Growing in understanding Reading and studying the Bible is an ongoing process. It can take time to fully understanding of the Bible grows over time. The more time you spend studying it, the more familiar with it youll
become. Seeking Gods guidance The most important element of effective Bible reading is seeking Gods guidance. It is important to allow Gods Spirit to lead you as you read. Pray for Wisdom and discernment as you explore and apply the Bible to your life. This is key to learning how to read the Bible effectively. Are you curious about how to read the
Bible effectively? Whether you are a seasoned believer or someone exploring faith for the first time, learning how to engage with this sacred text can be a transforming experience. This guide will walk you through practical methods for reading the Bible, ensuring that you glean insights while also connecting with its deeper messages. Understanding
the Structure of the BibleUnderstanding the structure of the Bible is pivotal in grasping its content. The Bible consists of two main sections: the Old Testament focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the early church
Familiarizing yourself with these sections will help you navigate the text more effectively. Choosing the Right Translation Selecting a translation that resonates with you is crucial. Different translations cater to various reading levels and preferences. For instance, the New International Version (NIV) is known for its balance between readability and
accuracy, making it a popular choice among readers. In comparison, the King James Version (KJV) appeals to those who appreciate traditional language. Setting a Reading Plan. This could involve reading a chapter a day, focusing on specific books, or aligning with a
thematic approach. One effective method is using the Bible in One Year plan, which divides the entire text into manageable daily readings, allowing you to complete it within twelve months! Creating a Distractions. Bright
lighting can help maintain focus, while comfortable seating enhances your reading experience. Taking the time to prepare your environment sets the tone for an engaging session with the Scriptures. Here are a few tools that can
complement your reading: Study Bibles: These Bibles provide commentary, maps, and additional context, enriching your reading experience. Bible Apps: Mobile applications like YouVersion allow you to access various translations and reading plans on the go. Online Courses: Websites like Coursera offer courses in Biblical studies that can deepen your
understanding. Devotional Guides: These can provide daily insights and reflections aligning with your scripture reading. Annotation but can also serve as a personal reference in the future. Use journaling to express your thoughts and
reflections alongside the text. **In comparison with traditional reading**, keeping a Bible journal can significantly deepen your connection with the material. Engaging in Group Studies Reading the Bible in a group setting can open up new perspectives. Join a Bible study group at your church or within your community. Engaging with others allows for
discussion, questions, and shared insights, enriching the overall experience. Applying the Teachings in Daily LifeMerely reading the Bible is not enough; applying its teachings in your daily life is essential. Reflect on how the lessons relate to your personal experiences. Journaling can help track your thoughts and progress in applying biblical
principles. Embracing Meditative Reading Meditative Reading Meditative Reading Meditative reading of the Bible focuses on contemplation rather than mere comprehension. Select a verse or passage and spend time reflecting deeply on its meaning and how it resonates with your life. This practice not only cultivates a deeper connection with the text but can also provide peace and
clarity. Complementary Tools and Resources To maximize the benefits of how to read the Bible, consider the following complementary tools: Bible Commentaries: Gain insights from renowned theologians; resources such as Bible Gateway
Commentaries enable thorough understanding of difficult passages. Digital Prayer Journals: Tools like Evernote can help you organize your reading notes. Online Communities: Platforms such as Reddits Christianity Community provide spaces for discussion and support. Podcasts: Listen to podcasts on biblical literacy to
expand your understanding while multitasking. Reading Apps: An app like YouVersion can provide audio options and reading plans. Visual Aids: Infographics and visual content can help illustrate complex concepts from the Bible. Online Theology Courses: Utilize platforms like Udemy for structured learning. Using Bible Commentaries for Enhanced
UnderstandingIntegrating a Bible commentary into your reading enriches your understanding by providing context and interpretations. Heres how:Offers expert insights into difficult passages, helping clarify complex themes. Provides by linking
readings with theological teachings. Acts as a resource for group discussions, offering diverse perspectives. Organizing Your Thoughts with Digital Prayer sand reflections over time, allowing for spiritual growth. Provides an organized space to
document answers to prayers and lessons learned. Encourages community can significantly enhance your journey. Online
forums or local church groups allow for sharing insights and experiences, boosting motivation to continue reading. Remaining Open to Spiritual GrowthAs you embark on this journey, keep an open heart and mind. The Bible has layers that unfold differently to readers at various stages of life. **What youll discover next might surprise you** Engage
with the text regularly, and you may find it speaking to your personal experiences in profound ways. Conclusion Learning how to read the Bible is an enriching experience that can deeply affect your life. By employing various approaches from understanding its structure to utilizing companion toolsyoure well on your way to unlocking the meaning
behind its teachings. Remember, its not just about connecting, understanding, and applying the messages to your daily life. Start your journey today, and keep exploring the depths of this timeless book! For further reading on biblical literacy and exploration, consider visiting sources such as Wikipedia on the Bible or check out
articles from Bible Gateway for deeper insights. Understanding the Structure of the Bible is often referred to as the most influential book in human history. If youre learning how to read the Bible, understanding its structure of the Bible is divided into two major sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each of these
sections contains various books that are further divided into chapters and verses. This format helps readers navigate through the text easily. The Old Testament Consists of 39 books (in Protestant editions) that include historical narratives, poetry, and prophetic literature. Some key books include: Genesis The story of creation and
early humanity. Exodus The account of Israels liberation from Egypt. Psalm A collection of hymns and prayers. The New Testament Made up of 27 books, the New Testament focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as the early Christian church. Important books include: Matkhew, Mark, Luke, and John The four Gospels sharing the life of
Jesus. Acts The history of the early church. Revelation A prophetic book offering a vision of the future. Choosing the Right Translation Another vital step in how to read the Bible effectively is selecting a translation that resonates with you. Different translations cater to various reading preferences and levels of understanding: King James Version (KJV)
Known for its poetic language. New International Version (NIV) A balance between readability and accuracy. English Standard Version (ESV) Favored for its word-for-word accuracy. In comparison with the New Living Translation (NLT), which aims for clarity and ease of understanding, the NIV strikes a balance between traditional language and
modern readability. Your choice should align with your reading goal and comprehension level. Setting a Reading PlanWhen learning how to read the Bible, setting a consistent reading plan is essential. Here are some effective strategies: Daily Reading Dedicate a specific time each day to read a chapter or a set number of verses. thematic Studies
Focus on particular themes such as grace, faith, or love. Chronological Plan Read the Bible in the order events occurred. By creating a structured plan, youll find it easier to stay engaged and retain the material. What will you discover next? Using Complementary Tools Combining how to read the Bible with various tools and apps can enhance your
experience significantly. The following tools can help you dive deeper into the Scriptures: Bible Gateway An extensive online resource with various translations. Read alongside your preferred version for comparative insights. YouVersion Bible App A feature-rich mobile app that allows you to read, highlight, and make notes directly in the text. Access
multiple translations. Bookmark favorite verses for quick reference. Join community reading plans to encourage commitments. Listen to audio versions of the Bible while community reading plans to encourage commitments. Listen to audio versions of the Bible while community reading plans to encourage commitments. Listen to audio versions of the Bible while community reading plans to encourage commitments. Listen to audio versions of the Bible while community reading plans to encourage commitments. Listen to audio versions of the Bible while community reading plans to encourage commitments. Listen to audio versions of the Bible while community reading plans to encourage commitments.
Join local discussion groups for accountability and learning through fellowship. Blue Letter Bible This website provides commentaries and original language tools, making Scripture interpretation easier. New Version Study Bibles Invest in a physical study Bible that clarifies difficult passages with notes and commentaries. Google Keep Use this note
taking app to track insights and reflections as you read. Pray As You Read Regular prayer can help to understand and apply lessons from the text. Maximizing EngagementWhile learning how to read the Bible, its beneficial to engage your mind and heart. Consider these techniques: Join a Study Group By participating in a Bible study group, you gain
insights from others perspectives. It fosters discussion and understanding, making your reading more enriching. Journaling Record of your spiritual journey. Memorization Memorizing key verses can enhance retention and application in daily
life. Challenge yourself with tools like flashcards or memory apps. This is a valuable skill that aids meditation on Scriptures. Utilizing Online Resources that can support your reading. Websites like Bible.com allow you to read multiple translations and access study plans tailored for personal growth. Learn how to
read the Bible alongside trusted authors and pastors through platforms offering online sermons and teachings, enhancing understanding through different interpretations. Sites such as Desiring God provide rich teachings to deepen your knowledge. Overcoming Challenges Reading the Bible can sometimes feel overwhelming. However, addressing
common challenges can make the process smoother: Lack of Motivation for your journey. Understanding Context Understanding the historical and cultural context of passages is essential. Use resources like
commentaries available on sites like BibleRef to gain insights into complex texts. Coping with Distractions. Enhancing Spiritual GrowthHow to read the Bible effectively isnt just about comprehension; its also a path for spiritual
growth. Reflect on how the text applies to your life. Here are top benefits: Increased Understanding develops a deeper understanding of biblical principles. Strengthened Faith Encountering Gods promises and stories can reaffirm belief. Community Connection Reading with others forms connections and bonds in faith. Moral Guidance
Biblical teachings provide moral and ethical direction, helping you navigate difficult situations. Please remember, as you embark on this journey of how to read the Bible, dont hesitate to seek help from community leaders or mentors. They can provide invaluable insights and encouragement as you grow in your understanding. Reading the Bible can be
a transformative experience for many individuals, offering spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of faith. But how exactly do you embark on this journey? In this article, well explore effective strategies and tips on how to read the Bible that will enhance your understanding and connection to the text. By the end, youll have the tools you need to
engage with this sacred scripture meaningfully. Choosing the Right Translation One of the first steps in how to read the Bible effectively is selecting the right translations. King James Version (KJV): A classic and poetic rendition that many
read for its historical significance. New International Version (NIV): Popular for its balance of readability and accuracy English Standard Version (ESV): Favored for its word-for-word accuracy and clarity. The Message (MSG): A contemporary paraphrase that presents scripture in modern language. When choosing a translation, consider your goals. If
youre focused on in-depth study, the ESV or NIV may be more appropriate. For casual reading or a spiritual boost, consider The Message easily. Setting a Purpose Before diving in, its crucial to establish a clear purpose for your reading. Different
objectives can guide your approach to how to read the Bible. Study: If you aim to analyze specific passages, consider a study Bible that provides annotations and commentary. Devotional: For daily inspiration, using a Bible reading plan or devotional guide can keep you focused and comsistent. Life Application: Reflecting on how biblical principles apply
to your life will create a personal connection to the content. By setting a clear purpose, youll enhance your engagement and retention of the material you read. Creating a Reading Plan Should consider your available time and commitment
level.Chronological Plan: Read the Bible in the order events occurred. Thematic Plan: Focus on specific themes over a set period, such as love or forgiveness. Book by Book: Take time to read one book of the Bible at a time for in-depth exploration. Using a reading plan instills discipline and helps you navigate the vast content systematically. Engaging the many levels are time for in-depth exploration. Using a reading plan instills discipline and helps you navigate the vast content systematically. Engaging the many levels are time for in-depth exploration. Using a reading plan instills discipline and helps you navigate the vast content systematically. Engaging the many levels are time for in-depth exploration. Using a reading plan instills discipline and helps you navigate the vast content systematically.
with the TextActive engagement is critical in how to read the Bible effectively. Use various techniques to connect personally with the Word. Take Notes: Jotting down thoughts or questions as you read helps reinforce your understanding. Highlight and Annotate: Mark significant verses or passages, providing context for future readings. Discuss with
Others: Join a study group or connect with others to gain different perspectives. Complementary tools alongside your Reading with ToolsTo enhance your reading experience further, consider these complementary tools alongside your Bible. Bible Apps: Use applications like YouVersion to access different translations, reading plans, and community features that keep
you accountable. Bible Commentaries: Tools such as Bible Gateway provide insights into verses, aiding understanding. Online Sermons: Engaging with sermons from platforms like SermonAudio allows you to hear interpretations of scripture. Study Bibles: Consider a study Bibles which includes commentary sections for deeper
insights. Audio Bibles: Listening to the Bible in audio format through Bible Gateway or other apps can provide a different perspective. Journaling: Maintain a dedicated journal to reflect on your readings and personal growth. Online Courses
Websites like Udemy provide courses on understanding the Bible and its themes. Deep Dive: Online Sermons can greatly enhance your understanding of the Bible and its themes. Deep Dive: Online Sermons are often available anytime
allowing you to engage with scripture whenever convenient. Expert Insights: Many sermons are delivered by knowledgeable pastors who provide context and application. Community Engagement: Joining live sermon sessions fosters a sense of community as you can engage with others sharing the same journey. Deep Dive: Online Courses Utilizing
platforms like Udemy can deepen your knowledge and enjoy practical applications of biblical teachings: Diverse Topics: Courses can cover a range of topics including theology, biblical history, and practical applications. Expert Instructors: Learn from established scholars and practitioners who present complex topics in engaging formats. Flexible
Learning: Self-paced options let you explore at your own convenience, ideal for fitting into a busy schedule. Interactive Features: Many courses include community features like discussion forums, quizzes, and assignments to reinforce learning. Utilizing Study ResourcesInvesting in study resources can assist in your journey of how to read the Bible
Resources such as Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, and topical guides can deepen your understanding of background and context. Bible Dictionary is essential to grasp the nuance of various terms. Topical Studies: Guides that tackle specific themes, such as
forgiveness or prayer, allowing you to understand the breadth of these topics biblically. Faith-Based Blogs: Blogs that focus on biblical application are integral aspects of how to read the Bible. These practices create a conducive environment for
spiritual reflection. Here are some suggestions: Set Aside Time: Dedicate specific moments for prayer before and after reading. Focus on Insight: Meditate on passages that resonate with you, reflecting on their meaning. Be Open: Approach with an open heart, asking for understanding as you read. Maintaining Consistency and Accountability Establishing
consistency in your reading is vital. Accountability can enhance this by connecting you with a community or a reading partner. Accountability Partners: Find someone who shares your goals. Regular discussions can motivate you to stay on track. Digital Reminders: Use calendar alerts to remind yourself when its time to read. Remaining faithful to your
study schedule cultivates a deeper understanding over time. Personal Application of ScriptureDirectly applying what you read into your daily life is one of the most powerful aspects of how to read the Bible. Identify practical ways to implement biblical teachings: Service: Volunteer your time to help others, embodying the love taught in many
scriptures. Forgiveness: Practice forgiveness: Practice forgiveness in your resources resonates with teachings of selflessness found in the Bible. By actively living out the teachings, your reading transcends mere knowledge and becomes a part of who you
are. Exploring Different GenresThe Bible contains various literary genres including poetry, history, prophecy, and letters. Understanding these genres will deepen your reading experience. Historical Narratives: Books like Genesis and Acts provide context and stories of faith. Poetry: Psalms and Proverbs offer lyrical insights and wisdom. Prophecy.
Books like Isaiah and Revelation provide foresight and revelations that require reflective reading. Recognizing the genre will help you approach each section appropriately and find relevance in its lessons. Engaging with Community Lastly, sharing your journey of how to read the Bible with a community can enhance your understanding. It fosters
discussions that expose you to different interpretations and insights. Consider joining: Local Church Groups: Many congregations offer Bible study sessions. Online Forums: Platforms such as Reddit have communities discussing scripture. Communities discussing scripture.
are equipped with various strategies on how to read the Bible, you can embark on this spiritual journey with confidence and purpose. Start by choosing a translation that resonates with you, establish a reading plan, and actively engage with the text. By applying these methods and considering complementary tools, youll enrich your experience and
deepen your connection to the sacred scriptures. Effective Reading StrategiesHow to Read the Bible: An IntroductionReading how to read the Bible is not just a religious duty; it can be a profound journey of discovery, inspiration, and personal growth. Whether youre new to the faith or have been reading the scriptures for years, understanding how to read the
Bible effectively is crucial for deepening your spiritual insight. In this guide, well explore practical strategies, complementary tools, and methods to enhance your Bible reading experience. Lets embark on this enlightening journey together! Understanding the Structure of the BibleBefore diving into specific reading techniques, its essential to
understand the structure of the Bible. The Bible is divided into two primary sections: the Old Testament. Each section consists of various books, which include historical accounts, poetry, prophecies, and letters. Old Testament: Contains 39 books, which include historical accounts, poetry, prophecies, and letters.
Testament: Includes 27 books, detailing the life of Jesus Christ and the early Christian church. This foundational knowledge will help you navigate the scriptures more effectively, making your reading sessions more rewarding. Establish a regular reading
habit. Here are some practical tips for doing so:Set a Schedule: Choose a specific time of day to read, whether its in the morning, during lunch, or before bed. Create a Comfortable Environment: Find a quiet place free from distractions where you can focus on your reading. Start Small: If youre new to Bible reading, start with a small portion each day,
gradually increasing as you become more comfortable. Use a Reading Plan: Consider following a structured reading plan that guides you through the Bible over a set period. Tools like YouVersion Bible translations available,
selecting the right one can enhance your reading experience. Some popular translations include: New International Version (KIV): Known for its poetic language and historical significance. English Standard Version (ESV): A word-for-word translation appreciated for its
accuracy. When choosing a translation, consider factors such as readability, intended audience, and your personal preference. Using multiple translations can also provide deeper insights into the text. Active Reading Techniques to enhance
your engagement: Highlight Key Verses: Use a highlighter or underline passages that resonate with you or provoke thought. Take Notes: Keep a journal to write down your thoughts, questions as you read. Ask Questions: Engage with the text by asking questions such as What does this passage mean? or How does this apply to my life?
Reflect and Meditate: Spend time contemplating the meanings and implications of what youve read. Using Complementary tools into your practice. These tools can help deepen your understanding and offer new perspectives. Here are some suggestions: Bible
Study Apps: Tools like [YouVersion] (provide various features such as reading plans, audio Bibles, and community sharing. Online Commentaries: Sites like [BibleGateway] (offer access to different translations, commentaries and study tools. Social Media Groups: Engage with online communities that focus on Bible study to share insights and
interpretations. Podcasts: Listening to Bible-based podcasts: Listening to Bible-based podcasts can provide fresh interpretations and enrich your understanding. Consider shows like The Bible for Normal People. Study Guides: Booklet guides can help you navigate specific books or themes within the Bible, helping you to dig deeper into the text. Journals: Keeping a dedicated journal for
your reflections can enhance your spiritual growth over time. Videos and Documentaries: Platforms like YouTube host a variety of educational context on Bible stories, history, and cultural context and critical analysis. Deepening Your Reading
Experience with AppsLets take a closer look at two powerful complementary tools: Bible Study Apps and Online Commentaries. Enjoy features such as flashcards and quizzes to test your knowledge. Community Interaction: Share
insights and engage with others reading the same passages. Audio Options: Listen to the Bible being read aloud to absorb the text in a different way. To get started, download the [YouVersion Bible App] (and explore its features that complement your reading strategy. Online Commentaries Diverse Perspectives: Access various scholarly interpretations
and insights that enrich your understanding. Contextual Analysis: Gain historical and cultural context behind different books and passages. Cross-References: Study related scripture references that enhance your comprehension of themes. Ease of Use: Find commentaries that are easy to navigate and understand, catering to different levels of
theological knowledge. Explore resources like [BibleGateway] (for a wealth of online community can provide accountability and enrich your reading experience. Here are some ways to involve yourself with others: Join a Bible Study Group:
Engaging with others allows for shared insights and interpretations that you may not have considered. Attend Workshops and Seminars: Participate in workshops focusing on specific books or themes in the Bible. Use Social Media: Follow groups or pages dedicated to Bible study for daily inspiration and resources. Share Insights: Create a blog or social
media account to document and share your thoughts as you read. Utilizing Visual Aids and Resources Visual learners may benefit from incorporating visual aids into their Bible reading. Heres how: Infographics to visualize stories and timelines in the Bible. Charts and Maps: Reference maps to understand geographical context in
Biblical events. Artistic Interpretations: Explore artworks and illustrations that depict Biblical themes, aiding in visualization. Video Content: Use documentaries and animations to visualize Bible, maintaining a reflective practice will help
integrate its principles into your daily life. Here are some advanced techniques: Apply What You Learn: Consider practical ways to apply teachings to your everyday experiences. Encourage Others: Share learnings with friends or family, inspiring collective growth. Contemplate Challenges: Use difficult verses as an opportunity for deeper reflection and
understanding. Pray for Guidance: Seek divine insight to aid in your interpretive journey. Choosing Multiple Formats to consider: Printed Text: Reading a physical Bible can enhance focus and tactile engagement. Audio Edition: Listening to an audio Bible can help you hear the flow
and cadence of the text. Online Versions: Access online platforms to explore different translations and commentaries. Mobile Apps: Incorporate Bible apps for on-the-go reading experience uniquely tailored to your needs. Conclusion: Continuing Your
JourneyReading the Bible is a continuous journey of growth and understanding. By employing effective strategies such as regular reading habits, engaging with community resources, and utilizing various formats and complementary tools, you can enhance your experience significantly. Remember, the key is to remain curious and open to the insights
that the scriptures have to offer, letting them guide your life with wisdom and clarity. As you embark on or continue this journey, consider how the practices discussed can transform your Bible reading into a deeply meaningful and interactive experience. Happy reading! The Bible is many things: a store of wisdom and knowledge, a light for the path, a
balm for the soul. But lets face it: the Bible can also be intimidating! For one thing, its big: Depending on the translation, were talking upwards of 725,000 words that nearly 10 novels put together! And its not just big, its dense. Even if youre not put off by the word count, the Bible is a lot more complex than a simple, straightforward story. As soon as
you decide to read the Bible, youre faced with lots of guestions: Which version should you read? What order should you read? What order should you read it in? And as you go deeper, the guestions only continue: When did all those genealogies? If youve
ever wanted to read the Bible, but didnt know where to start or if you did start but dropped off somewhere around Leviticus this post is for you. It will walk you through a step-by-step process for choosing a Bible, setting goals, and building a study habit plus, how to handle challenging sections so they don't derail your entire journey. Whether this is
your first time picking up a Bible, or youre a lifelong Bible aficionado looking for a fresh approach, I hope youll find what you need to deepen your engagement with Gods Word. The first choice youre going to have to make when you set out to read the Bible is which translation youre going to read it in. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew (the
Old Testament) and Greek (the New Testament), with a few portions (such as part of Daniel) in Aramaic. So unless you can read all those languages, youre probably going to want to read it in English versions readily available to you.
Since John Wycliffe first translated the Bible into English in the 14th century, dozens more have appeared mostly in the last hundred years. The most famous English Bible is of course the King James Version (1611). The KJV has endured as one of the bestselling Bibles indeed, best-selling books in the world, every year, for over 400 years, thanks to its
attention to beautiful, majestic language that was designed specifically to be read aloud in worship. However, the English language has changed a lot over those four centuries and so has our knowledge of Biblical language has changed a lot over those four centuries and so has our knowledge of Biblical language has changed a lot over those four centuries and so has our knowledge of Biblical language has changed a lot over those four centuries and so has our knowledge of Biblical languages.
historical/linguistic impact the KJV is probably not the best place for a new Bible reader to start. Youll find lots of lovely phrasing but youre also likely to feel lost and discouraged pretty quickly. If youre committed to the KJV but want something a little closer to todays English, you might want to try the New King James Version (NKJV), completed in
1982, which preserves the poetry and diction of the KJV while updating the language to remove archaic terms like thee and thou. When it comes to choosing a Bible version, the main decision for you to make is between formal equivalence. Formal equivalence also called word-for-word translation tries to preserve the exact
form of the Hebrew and Greek originals as closely as possible in todays English, even if it sounds a little awkward, confusing, or old-fashioned. This also includes keeping idioms like gird your loins that we might not understand. Functional equivalence or thought-for-thought translation instead tries to clarify the intended meaning of the Bible by
rendering it in more natural-sounding modern English, even if it means making some adjustments to its original style and grammar. Theres no right or wrong answer here. In general, if youre looking for a more easily understandable, natural
reading experience, youll likely be better off with functional equivalence. The most popular English Bible version worldwide is the New Internations, striving equally for accuracy and readability. Another popular balanced translation is the Christian
Standard Bible (CSB), updated in 2020, the official translation of the Southern Baptist Convention. Some top formal equivalence Bible versions include: New Revised Standard Version (ESV), 2021 especially popular among mainline Protestants and academics. English Standard Version (ESV), 2021 especially popular among mainline Protestants and academics.
conservative Evangelicals. New American Standard Version (NASB), 2020 the most literal translation. New American Bible Revised Edition (NASB), 2011 generally preferred by Catholics. Top functional equivalence translations include: New American Bible Revised Edition (NASB), 2020 the most literal translation.
2011 preferred by mainline Protestants. There are also many paraphrases of the Bible available (such as the Living Bible and the Message). These can be interesting ways to engage the Bible from a new perspective, but given how far they often depart from the original text, they are not recommended for your first Bible. When it comes to choosing a
version for Catholic and Orthodox readers (as well as some Anglicans and Lutherans), its important to ensure it contains the Deuterocanonical books, also known as the Apocrypha. These are the intertestamental (i.e., between the Old and New Testament) books that were included in the Greek Septuagint used by the early church, but later rejected by
most Protestant reformers and therefore not included in most Protestant Bibles. Catholics can find many Protestant translations with added Apocrypha by looking for Catholic Edition (sometimes noted as CE) after the version abbreviation. If you want to play it safe, the only full texts the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has officially
approved are the NRSVCE and NABRE, but others are available as well. Its a little more complicated for Orthodox, because nearly all English translations are likely the English Septuagint translations published by Oxford or Lexham, or the Orthodox
Study Bible, which uses the NKJV with newly translated portions where the Septuagint text differs. For more guidance, read our in-depth guide to choosing a Bible Version that best for you. On the other hand, one of the advantages of a tool like Bible Gateway is that it allows you to easily read the same passage in multiple versions, side by side. This
can be a great way to familiarize yourself with various translation styles. Eventually, youll likely find yourself defaulting to one or two favorites. Once youve chosen a version to focus on, it will be time to choose a copy of the Bible itself. In general this is a much easier choice: While there are a dizzying array of Bibles available on the market and they
differ widely in quality youll know pretty quickly which ones you like the feel of. Unless you want a Study Bible which I highly recommend. More on that below. First, heres a brief overview of the types of Bibles youll likely encounter at your local (or online) bookstore: Standard Bibles: The name says it all these are your standard, regular-sized reading
Bibles. Thinline Bibles: As the name implies, thinline Bibles are thinner, lighter, and slightly more compact than your standard Bible. The pages are usually thinner and the font and/or margins might be smaller. A bit easier to carry, a bit harder to read. Compact/Pocket Bibles: Unless youre a nephilim, no full-length Bible is actually going to fit in your
pocket. But these Bibles come remarkably close with super-small text that remains surprisingly (miraculously?) readable. Large Print/Giant Print Bibles: Moving in the opposite direction, large or giant print Bibles expand the font and page size for easier readability, especially for the elderly or vision-impaired. Not very portable,
though. Premium Bibles: Fancy, expensive Bibles usually with genuine leather covers (the interior pages are generally the same as standard or thinline Bibles: These include tons of additional resources like book
introductions, topical articles, verse notes, maps, and more to deepen your reading experience. They can be overwhelming, but I recommend them see below for why. Devotional Bibles: Like Study Bibles, but with notes and prompts specifically designed to encourage prayer and contemplation as you read. Journaling Bibles: These have extra space in
the margins for making notes (or doodling). Bible Apps: These are apps (like Bible Gateway) that allow you to read the Bible on your mobile device, typically in a variety of translations and with additional personalization features like highlighting, note-taking, and verse favoriting. Theres no more compact Bible than your smartphone! Audio Bibles: Just
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like an audiobook, but its the Bible. Most translations have audio versions available. They can get pricey to buy in full, but there are apps like Bible versions for free or a few dollars a month. OK, Ive said a few times that I recommend Study Bibles for most readers, and heres why. As a new Bible reader, your likely to become confused or overwhelmed quickly. Wont a ton of extra material just make you more overwhelmed? Well, no. A good Study Bible and it is important to choose the right one will guide your reading by filling in missing context (like who wrote each book and when), clarifying confusing passages, and providing

historical background. And of course, Study Bibles are just as good for longtime Bible readers (and even scholars). As you grow in your faith and understanding, the huge amount of information in them (and wide variety of types available) ensures youll always have more to learn, contemplate, and pray about. Think of it as a miniature seminary on your bookshelf. Do you need a Study Bible to appreciate Scripture? Absolutely not. Gods Word stands on its own. But a quality Study Bible recommendations for beginning Bible readers: For more recommendations, including for more advanced Bible readers, see our full post on Study Bibles for every type of reader. It will probably come as no surprise that Im a Bible maximalist. Why have just one Bible when you could have many? In truth, with so many options between translations, types, and formats, its easy to get carried away. Owning lots of Bibles wont bring you deeper into Gods Word: only reading them will. That said, it can be helpful to have a few editions, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare) for use in different translations, in case you want to compare you wa non-Study Bible standard, thinline, compact, large print, journaling, whatever you like for a more portable option, or for when you want to read without distraction. Install a Bible app on your phone. Personally, I prefer to read the Bible in hard copy but ever since downloading Bible Gateway, Ive been able to replace social media or news doomscrolling with a few minutes of Bible reading when Im waiting or need a break. Optional: If you like audiobooks, get an audio Bible instead of or in addition to the Bible app. So, youve got your Bible (or Bibles) in your favorite translations and youre ready to dive in. Great! Theres just one more step I strongly recommend first: establish a reading plan, and set reading goals. After all, just like any other habit prayer, contemplation, exercise starting out is easy. Sticking with it is harder. And just like any other habit, consistency is key. Having a preset roadmap for your reading is crucial for establishing that consistency. There are two parts to this step. The first is picking an approach; the second is determining a cadence. There are many different ways you can approach reading the entire Bible, the most common of which are: canonical Order, and OT/NT concurrent. Canonical order, and OT/NT concurrent. Canonical order, and OT/NT concurrent. prophets, and then into the New Testament. Chronological Order: Another option is reading the books chronologically, which is surprisingly complicated, because many books overlap (and sometimes we dont know when they were written or take place). But it can be done, and can be both a fascinating way to see the evolution of Israels history and relationship with God, as well as a fun way to break up long chunks of history/prophecy and help keep them both fresh. OT/NT Concurrent: Another popular way is to combine daily readings from the New Testament with shorter readings from the New Testament with shorter readings from the New Testament way is to combine daily readings from the New Testament with shorter readings from Whichever option you go with, its common to read one Psalm per day (and sometimes a few verses of Proverbs), which has the double benefit of framing your daily reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the repetitiveness of reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up the reading with a Biblical prayer and breaking up reading, its time to set a reading schedule and goals. The most common approach is to read through the entire Bible in one year, but if that feels too daunting, there are two-year plans available as well. You can set your own reading schedule by taking the number of pages in your Bible and dividing by the number of days you want to read (e.g., 365 in a year, or about 260 if you want to skip weekends). But rather than reinventing the wheel, youd probably be better off using an already-existing reading plan. Many are widely available. Bible Gateway has over a dozen reading plan including chronological, OT/NT, 90-day, and more and well email you reminders, too (if you want). You can also sometimes find plans in the back of your Bible (especially in Study Bibles). Or for a fully guided experience you can opt for a daily-reading Bible, such as the Daily Scripture Bible (available in a few other versions, but not all, so youll have to check for one in your chosen translation. As you embark on your Bible reading journey, there are a few things you should keep in mind. These will help to guide and inform your reading, especially when youre struggling with a complex, confusing, troubling, or just plain boring passage. The Bible was written roughly between 4,000 and 2,000 years ago in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. No part of it was written in English. In fact, English as a language didnt even exist back then! Whenever you crack open your Bible, you should always keep in mind that, no matter what youre reading, it is a translation. Its not the original. Now, that doesn't mean your translation isn't accurate. In most cases, Bible versions are produced by dozens of scholars working for years and building upon the previous work of hundreds of other scholars going back hundreds of more years. Any choice they make, they make it carefully, thoughtfully, and intentionally. You can trust your Bible. That said, any translator will tell you that most languages dont map perfectly on to one another. And thats all the more true when comparing ancient and modern languages. Most words and phrases can be translated multiple ways and still be accurate. Thats why we have so many Bible translations in the first place! Any time you encounter a sentence or passage that you find confusing or uncomfortable, try checking it out in another translation (or several). It might help shed light on the different possible meanings of the text. Watch Out for Paratext is every part of the Bible, or translators footnotes. But some of it is much more subtle. Most readers dont realize, for instance, that chapter and verse numbers are not part of the original Bible. They were added about 500 years ago by Bible translators and publishers after the invention of the printing press, to make cross-referencing easier. And they certainly do! But they also introduce artificial breaks and interruptions that arent there in the original texts. In fact, in ancient times, they didnt use paragraphs they barely used punctuation at all so each book of the Bible was simply one long scroll of unbroken text. There are Bibles you can purchase (such as the new NIV Lectio Bible) that attempt to recreate this experience by stripping out chapters, verses, and section headings. It can be a deeply immersive and powerful reading experience. But I wouldn't recommend it for your first or only Bible. Theres a good reason those paratexts were introduced, after all. They make the Bible immensely easier to read, reference, study, and share. But even so, its worth remembering as you go that they are additions not part of Gods Word as it was first written. Hermeneutics is a technical term for the Bible Jews, Christians, and others have approached the text in many different ways. The Bible even interprets itself in different ways! Ancient and medieval readers, for instance, often looked for typology or anagogy hidden ways the Bible predicts future events, such as the coming of Jesus or the end times. Post-Reformation, modern readers have become increasingly interested in the historical situation and origins of the Bible. As your ejust setting out on your reading journey, you don't need to know the intricacies of this history. (Like reading in the original languages, this is not beginner-level: its a thing people get PhDs in.) But you should be aware that it is an ongoing conversation even among traditional, orthodox Christians and the plainest meaning of a passage isnt always the only way it should be understood. Jesus himself, of course, famously preferred teaching in parables. Once again, if youre perplexed by a passage youre reading (or even if youre not!), thats a great opportunity to do some deeper digging, such as in your Study Bible, and see what different scholars and theologians have said about it. At this point, you should be well on your way to becoming a regular Bible reader! Before you get too far, though, I have just a few more pieces of advice for you to consider. Above all, dont get discouraged! If youve noticed one theme of this article, its probably that. I started out by saying that the Bible is intimidating. But even those who go in energized and excited often run aground somewhere around Leviticus, or maybe Numbers in fact, its become something of a clich among pastors and Bible teachers. There are different ways of dealing with those long-slog passages. One of them, as I suggested above, is to use it as an opportunity to do some research read your Study Bible, explore resources in Bible Gateway Plus, and maybe find some amazing insights you had no idea about. (Hint: theres more to the endless genealogies than you might think.) But ultimately, if youve run into a place where your only options are to stop reading or skip ahead by all means, skip ahead by all means are to stop reading or skip ahead by all means, skip ahead by all means, skip ahead by all means are to stop reading or skip ahead by all means are to stop reading or skip ahead. Over the course of your lifetime, different things to you at different things to you at different things to you right now, no matter which way you turn it, dont be ashamed to set it aside. Move on to the next section. You can always return to it later. If you do set something aside, be sure to note it down maybe just draw a big question mark in the margin. Better yet, write down whats bothering you about it. Sometimes the simple act of taking a note can help you understand something better. But dont stop there! Take notes on your favorite passages, too. Highlight them, underline them, or if (like me) you cant bear the thought of marking up your precious books use a separate journal. Or a journaling Bible. Or just use Bible Gateway. We are called to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12), and wrestling with Scripture is one of the ways we do that. Writing down thoughts and reactions positive or negative or mystified is a great way to engage with the Bible. It helps you have an ongoing conversation with the Lord through his Word, as you return to it again and again over the years. And, as a bonus, it will be doubly meaningful if you someday choose to pass it on to your children or another loved one. Another possibly even better way to wrestle with Scripture is together. While reading a Study Bible is a great way to go deeper into the text on your own, doing a Bible Study with a group can help surface ideas and perspectives you never would have encountered by yourself. Indeed, the Bible was meant to be read in community. Jesus preached to crowds; Paul addressed most of his letters to the assembly in various regions. At a time when written works were exceedingly expensive and few people were literate, the primary way people received the Word was orally, either read aloud or told from memory. Today, thanks to vernacular translations, the printing press (not to mention Internet), and much better education systems, most of us can read the Bible for ourselves and thats a huge blessing. But the advantages of doing so in Christian community are manifold. If there isnt a Bible Study group already meeting at your church, its always a great idea to consult with your pastor about difficult passages, or even just general themes and ideas. God has called them explicitly for the purpose of tending to his flock and that means you! Besides, they generally have a lot of additional training and education on the Scriptures, and can point you in the right direction. If you dont have a church or pastor you trust on these issues nows a great time to go and get one. How to choose a church is whole other topic, but just like with Bible versions, the best advice I can give is to try some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. Go to local congregations, get a feel for them, see what they early some out. cant bring yourself to sit down and read the Bible but still want to build a relationship with God maybe its time to try something different. Personally, Im a theology nerd, so I like to start with reading a church theologian, who tend to reference the Bible a lot, so then I go and read the referenced Bible passages. Or you can simply pray about it: talk to God, tell him where youre stuck, and ask him to open the way. You can also try commentaries, devotionals, discussion groups, even board games! To those who knock, the door will be opened (Matt. 7:7). We at Bible Gateway truly believe the Bible is for everyone. Even so, we understand it can be intimidating to approach for the first (or even hundredth) time. But it doesn't have to be. I hope this guide has given you the resources you need to get started or restarted, or just reenergized on your Bible reading journey. Stay tuned to this space for lots more content to guide you on your way!

How to read the bible and understand it better. How to read the bible effectively pdf. How best to read the bible. What is the fastest way to read the bible. Learn how to read the bible effectively. What is the most effective way to read the bible. How to read and study the bible effectively. How to read my bible daily.