

BIBLE READING RESOURCES

The Bible Project — free visual summaries of Bible books and themes, free Bible reading app, and free online courses.

YouVersion Bible App — free Bible site and app, including audio Bibles and reading plans.

The Gospel Coalition Commentaries — free and concise explanation of each book of the Bible.



[more resources](#)

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth — a book on how to read and understand different kinds of literature in the Bible.

How to Read the Bible Book by Book — a book that provides an overview of each book in the Bible and its meaning.

Dwell Audio Bible App — a paid Bible app that offers a premium listening experience.

Find more at elmwoodchurch.org/bible-resources

BIBLE READING BEST PRACTICES

SET YOUR ENVIRONMENT — Set aside a specific time of day and place to read, ideally where you can stay uninterrupted. Try your favorite sitting spot or a coffee shop you enjoy.

PICK A PASSAGE — If you are unsure what to read, start with a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) or a psalm. Since the Bible was given to us in books, try to read books of the Bible instead of skipping around.

DETERMINE YOUR SPEED — Decide whether you will read slowly and reflectively, or more quickly to see the big picture. Both are good!

PREPARE YOUR HEART — Spend at least 60 seconds in silence before God, asking the Spirit to guide you as you read.

MARK IT UP — Circle, underline, or highlight important words or phrases. Try printing a passage and writing all over it. Try keeping a separate notebook where you record thoughts, observations, connections to other passages, and applications.

TAKE IT HOME — We read to understand the Bible, encounter Jesus, and be changed by him! As you read, write down ways you sense God calling you to live in obedience.

DO WHAT WORKS — There is no one-size-fits-all approach, so keep experimenting to find what works for you! Expect to adjust your rhythm based on your season of life.

BIBLE READING QUESTIONS

1) WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY ABOUT GOD?

- What aspects of his character and nature come through?
- How does this passage reveal his heart towards humanity?

2) WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY ABOUT HUMANITY?

- Where do I see shadows of God's design for humanity? What positive examples are there to follow?
- In what ways do I see the corruption of sin and idolatry distorting God's good design?

3) WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY ABOUT ME?

- Where do I see myself in the story?
- What character do I most identify with? Why?
- What does this passage help me understand about myself?

4) WHAT QUESTIONS DOES THIS PASSAGE RAISE?

- What's confusing, culturally foreign, or offensive to me?
- Who can I talk to? What resources can help me understand this passage on its own terms? When will I process my discomfort with this passage in the presence of God through prayer?

5) HOW DOES THIS TEXT LEAD ME TO DELIGHT IN GOD?

- What aspects of his character, nature, or saving work have captured my imagination and my affections?
- How does this passage lead me to Jesus and help me understand his life, death, resurrection, ascension, and present rule?

6) HOW WILL I RESPOND?

- What do I hear God saying to me through this passage?
- How do I sense the Spirit leading me to live differently?

7) WHO NEEDS TO HEAR THIS? HOW WILL I TELL THEM?

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

Psalms 1:1-2