

HOW DO I HAVE A PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY?

Most people believe that personal Bible study is critical for spiritual growth. However, they don't know how to get started, and they feel overwhelmed. As a result, they decide they need someone else to explain what God's Word says and miss out on the incredible blessing of hearing God speak directly to them through the Bible.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17



SCHEDULE BIBLE READING INTO YOUR DAY

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." Mark 1:35

Schedule your meeting with God before your day even starts. Look at your calendar a week at a time. Prioritize this meeting and honor it like you would a meeting with the most important person in your life. In order to have a successful personal Bible study, you need a:

- **Time** - Select a time of day when you are most alert. Give God your best!
- **Place** - Decide on a place free from distractions.
- **Plan** - Be intentional about your Bible reading.

CHOOSE A READING PLAN

"Blessed is the man... whose delight is in the Law of the Lord, And on His Law he meditates day and night."
Psalms 1:1-2

In 2018, we want to invite you to join First McKinney as we read through the Bible together. We have partnered with the Bible for Life to design a reading plan that can be found on [YouVersion](#) (search "Read the Bible for Life 4+1 Plan") and our website, firstmckinney.com/bible. You will find the links to [YouVersion](#) and a pdf of the readings.

In just a little over 300 days you will read through the entire Bible by reading from 4 different places each day. By starting in mid-February and spending around 13 minutes each day, at the end of the year, you will have read the whole Bible and Psalms 2x.

The advantage of this type of plan is that you will be exposed to various parts of the Old and New Testaments simultaneously, which will keep your reading very fresh and remind you of "the whole counsel of God"! To see more details or to download the plan visit firstmckinney.com/bible.

MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

Begin your time in prayer. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. As you read the Bible, highlight or underline verses that stand out to you. After reading, go back and pick one to meditate on.

Scripture: What verse stood out to you from the reading? Write the verse out, word for word.

Say - What is God saying to me? Write what God is saying in your own words. What does it say about you? What does it say about God?

Obey - How can I obey? How can you apply this truth to your life today? Be specific.

Tell - Who can I tell? Ask God with whom you can share what He is leading you to do. Write the name down.

Title the journal entry, date it and create a Contents Page in your journal so you can quickly reference what God has been teaching you as you seek to follow Jesus every day.

OBEDIENCE MATURES AND MOTIVATES

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22

When we apply the Bible through the power of the Holy Spirit, it moves from being a historic book to a life-transforming book. Nothing is more exciting than seeing the God of the Universe actively leading our actions. Nothing is more difficult and discouraging than reading the Bible when we are not applying it.

Note: You must be saved through faith in Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit in order to understand and apply the Bible. **Obedience follows faith.**

SHARE WHAT GOD IS TEACHING YOU

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel." Ezra 7:10

Look for the opportunities God gives you to share what He is teaching you with others. They are all around you. We live in a lost but spiritual culture. People are hungry for and receptive to the conversation:

- "Can I show you what God is teaching me?"
- "You will never guess what the Holy Spirit is leading me to do today..."
- "God spoke into my life this morning. It was exactly what I needed to hear."



RESOURCES

Recommended Books:

- *30 Days to Understanding the Bible* (by Max Anders)
Understand in a basic way how the Bible is put together. Awesome foundation for everyone's personal Bible study.
- *Living By the Book* (by Howard Hendricks)
Gives an inductive approach to studying scripture along with unique procedures for observation that will lead to rich time with Jesus in His Word.

Bible Reading Plans and Websites:

- One Year Bible: <http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>
- YouVersion.com: Many diverse reading plan options that can also be pulled up on your smart phone or tablet.
- ESV Bible Reading Plans: <http://www.esv.org/resources/reading-plans-devotions/>. Find a plan that fits you. Easy to print out these plans to keep in your Bible.

Additional information...

FIRST MCKINNEY is a gathering of many smaller groups called Life Groups. These groups look a lot like the New Testament Church. In these groups, we devote ourselves to what the Bible teaches - to fellowship, to breaking bread and to prayer. We base our teaching on God's Word and want to invite you to join a Life Group and dive into Scripture with other believers. Go to firstmckinney.com/groups for a current Life Group listing. Email paige@firstmckinney.com if additional information is needed.



FIRST MCKINNEY
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