

39 October 26th 2013

TRAINING FOR GUYS



How do I read the Bible?

Many of us discover after a while that the way we have been reading the Bible no longer works. We stop hearing God, get bored, and find we just stop doing it. The thing is, there is no one right way of reading the Bible. We may often be taught as children how to do it, but as in all things as we grow up we need to adapt.

So, if your Bible reading is in a rut, try one or more of these methods, and let's have other ideas suggested on the Facebook page (tfgministries.org.uk/Facebook).

Bible in a Year

Buy a copy of the Bible specially arranged to be read in a year. Each day you'll need about half an hour to read the section for the day, which will normally include a few chapters of the Old Testament and one or two from the New. It'll help you to see how it all fits together. Some *Bibles in a Year* are dated to run from January to December, others from September to August. But get one now to be ready to kick off on New Year's Day.



"The Bible... that would be under self-help."

Jump around

Don't just stick with the passage you are reading. If it brings to mind another story in the Bible then go and read that too. It may well be the Holy Spirit is joining things together to teach you something special. But don't jump out of the Bible into *Hercule Poirot* or *Harry Potter*. Stay within God's Word during your Bible reading time.

Ask Questions

When you read something ask "Why is *that* there?" God doesn't use words for no reason. "What was the point behind this?", "Why this story?", "Is there a reason for the structure of this passage being like this?" etc

A Theme or Character

Get a notebook and do a study either on one character of the Bible or a theme (such as 'deliverance'). If following a character, read all the passages relating to them (and check references elsewhere in the Bible that refer to them). Try to consider where they went wrong, where they did well, what they were commended for, etc. If a theme, use a search tool to find all the verses that refer to it (deliverance, deliverer, etc). Don't just read the verse given, but read it in context. When you've read all the verses see if you can write a talk/chapter based on what you have learnt from it.

All scripture quotations taken from NIV unless otherwise indicated

Carefully use Google
What do other Christians make of this passage? But always check that the authors of something are Christians. There are an awful lot of agendas out there on the web. However, there is an awful lot of deep Godly wisdom too. But don't jump to this too quickly, let God speak to *you* first. It's much more fun to read something and think about it and hear a truth first hand and then discover that others see it too... than to read it from others and never get to hear firsthand yourself.

Together
A group of friends (or home/cell group) agree which bit of the Bible they are reading this week. When they get together they each talk about what God has said to them through it (everyone speaks, even if it is exactly what someone else has said).

See too if you can answer each others questions about bits not understood.

Memorise
Choose one verse from this week's readings to memorise by heart (inc reference).
Each month make sure you can remember all the verses you have learnt so far during the year. Compete with others to see who can learn most.

walkingbible.com will help with this

Preach
Set yourself a target that at the end of the month you are going to preach a sermon on a certain chapter or theme. Read, re-read and then read again the relevant passage(s) over and over through the month, noting things that strike you each time you do. Then either record yourself teaching what you have learnt or get some friends to come to listen. There's nothing like teaching from a text to really make you learn what it says!

Short Bits
The opposite of *Bible in a Year*. Just one parable, just a short section of one of Paul's letters. Just one Psalm. Stick with it for a week. Read it several times a day. Meditate on it. Get to know it. Let it seep in. After a few days, when you know it, allow yourself to **Jump**, but not till you really know the text you're dealing with.

NEW TESTAMENT
much more than the Old
We're not under the Law, it's there to instruct but not to constrict

Language
If you can speak another language, buy a Bible in that language and read it. If not, buy a different English translation to the one you are used to. You'll be surprised at how the different phrases shed new light on the text

Bible Study Series
We continue our series on Ephesians ch 6:1-9
Live submitting yourselves to one another. Children/Parents. Slaves/Bosses.
Read the passage, and go to www.tfgministries.org.uk/podcasts to join in.