

Why must a Christian read the word?

The greatest and most important reason must be to KNOW Christ (Philippians 3: 7-15). It is in knowing HIM that you will desire to become more like Him. Through His word you are transformed into His likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18) (Romans 12:2) by the help of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14-17).

So to know Him you have to firstly purpose in your heart to seek Him. God's invitation to every person is to seek HIM (Psalm 27:8) and when you do seek Him with all your heart He promises you that you will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13).

How to seek Him in the Word**What do you read?**

I always encourage picking a specific book, one book at a time if you are building a routine. I also would encourage not to be "devotional" led. Remember you are wanting to KNOW your friend, don't depend solely on someone's interpretations or direction. Yes, for a person new to faith for a few months this is a good start but after that **try and let the devotion be a support AFTER your own study, trust me this is a friend worth knowing first hand!**

Even when that book seems confusing or boring STICK IT OUT trust me it will pay off.

Some good places for new believers to start are:

John (good way to know about Jesus and His ministry- what He truly represented, what it means to be a follower of Christ).

Galatians (it will help you learn about what a transformed life looks like)

Romans (It will help you learn how Christ made the way and it is not in our own righteousness but Christ's we are saved)

James (It balances things out by helping you understand although salvation is not by WORKS but faith, Faith is a substance that is VISIBLE, there are outward manifestations of faith in Jesus so yes come as you are BUT don't expect to stay as you are, that's not the gospel! The gospel is about bringing people who were dead to sin ALIVE in Christ, become LIKE CHRIST forgo you own Will for His)

Some good places for grown up Christians to start

Acts (This will help you understand the church Jesus longs for! The church led by the Holy Spirit, you will see the character of the leaders (Apostles) and how everyone that believed in Jesus was regarded as a disciple and what that life looked like even when there was persecution. The power of unity (praying in one accord).

Stagnant but mature Christian

Challenge yourself to read the Old Testament especially Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel

Let these books resurrect the Holy fear and reverence for God in you.

Some tips for everyone

Clear your mind, prepare your spirit – try and just worship God a bit (worship is not music, it is adoring God with your words, read a psalm and praise and worship God. If its morning thank Him for the day and confess with your mouth that you desire to Know Him better than you did **yesterday and**

you would like to see Him even as you read the Word (Jesus is the Word). If its evening same thing but also repent from anything that may hinder you.

Take away the pressure to “find revelation”. Imagine you are trying to build a friendship with someone if they are trying to get out all your secrets without investing in knowing you would you tell them? I hope NOT! Remove the temptation to read to get something and read the word just to KNOW it and get comfortable being in the word. Almost like you would a novel, you are interested and so you are reading, and the funniest thing is even if it was a boring newspaper, you are reading if someone asked you later you will remember some things! So, the first priority In establishing a routine is read, just read!

Try and not lean on “study methods”, although there is nothing wrong with them, you don’t want pressure to follow a method, desire to follow the Holy Spirit by inviting Him into your reading. After all He is the giver of Knowledge and wisdom (Isaiah 11) and His gift to us is that of COMMUNION (2 Corinthians 13:14) and so COMMUNE with Him. Sometimes methods get you more into your intellectual brain as you question if you are doing it right, **remember the word is for your spirit man to KNOW the SPIRIT of God and not your intellect (flesh)**

Set a specific time daily, see it as an appointment with your friend you want to know! A set time makes it easier to fall into a routine and also its like you are excited to meet your King and He is excited to meet with you!

Lastly be consistent! It will pay off!!!

You have made it thus far! So enjoy the helpful reflection guide on the next page 😊

Reflective Questions for Bible Study

	Stages	Examples
Awareness	<p>Describe what is happening</p> <p>what is the context in which it is happening</p> <p>Who is speaking and what are they saying?</p> <p>To whom are they speaking to at that time?</p>	<p>e.g. "Jesus is speaking".</p> <p>e.g. "Jesus is speaking to the Jews that have believed in Him"</p> <p>e.g. in verse 31 of John 8 Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.</p> <p>Jews who had believed in Him</p>
Engagement	<p>How are they speaking?</p> <p>What is this conveying about the character of God? Jesus and or the Holy Spirit? What is it teaching me about what God Loves what does God Hate?</p>	<p>e.g. is there any emotion? (check for exclamation marks, double words eg verily verily)</p> <p>Jesus repeated the word truth and also the word in that passage 30-32</p> <p>e.g. Holiness, Just, true to the word,</p>
Transferable Wisdom	<p>What does it mean for me?</p> <p>How does the message being conveyed relate to my current struggle, walk with God or life choices?</p>	<p>e.g. this is revealing that Jesus isn't just wanting me to believe in Him, He wants me to KNOW The truth and be set free by the truth. That I read the truth (the word) I am set free from sin and death)</p>
Application	<p>So what am I going to do about what I have learnt?</p>	<p>Holy Spirit thank you for revealing that true believing in Jesus means change to become like Him. I know I cannot do it without your helps. I invite you to help me today to (be specific based on learning) talk in a wholesome way, to be faithful in my work even when no one is watching, Lord I want my life to reflect that the word in Me is active and transformational because it is! In Jesus name I pray Amen</p>